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## PARENTS GET POLITICAL

Natalie Odd is seen with her sons Mateo Benson, left, 8, and Sebastian Benson, 4. Class sizes at the Banff Trail School where Mateo attends have swollen, and Odd fears the worst may be yet to come. The city's public school board has said provincial funding hasn't been on par since 2012, but parents say they won't stand by and watch as further cuts loom. See story, page 16. MORGAN MODJESKI/METRO

## Cab patrons ignored up to 60 times each

### Transportation.

City reignites push to release 257 more taxi plates by early 2016



JEREMY  
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Customer requests for a cab ride are being ignored up to 60 times each by available drivers, some of whom are less than a kilometre away, according to data provided by a city brokerage.

Checker Yellow Cabs provided the information to the city on top of regular data requirements in a bid to quell common beliefs that phone dispatch systems were the source of long-standing cab-service issues during busy hours.

Checker vehicles account for 50 per cent of Calgary's total cab fleet and provide 61 per cent of dispatched trips.

Each time a new customer is logged into dispatch, available drivers are prompted to accept the trip on an onboard vehicle screen and have 30 seconds to respond. But those requests are being ignored, in some instances, as many as 40 to 60 times.

"You wonder why I bang my head against the wall," said Checker president Kurt Enders in an interview Thursday. "Enough is enough, I'm tired of being accused that it's a dispatch problem.... It's not that bad, actually it's pretty damn good."

In a bid to boost service, Enders said, his organization has introduced a new dispatch system and even responded to concerns from drivers wanting to stretch their legs by providing a "remote control" that alerts them to a new fare as long as they're within 75 feet of their vehicle.

Checker drivers still refused an average of 27 per cent of monthly trips between September and January.



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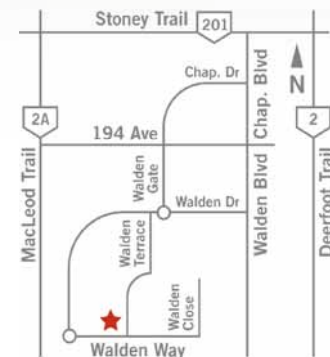
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## Four years. City to sign deal for ParkPlus

Edmonton is on the verge of signing a four-year deal to license Calgary's ParkPlus technology, a sale that could be the first of many, according to Coun. Gian-Carlo Carra.

"I think the sky's the limit," Carra, who sits on the Calgary Parking Authority (CPA) board of directors, said Thursday.

Edmonton councillors will vote next week on a recommendation to purchase the CPA-owned software — including its licence-plate recognition technology for enforcement — after reviewing other proposals and finding ParkPlus to be by far and away the best fit.

"We did do a survey of other Canadian municipalities and it was the only proven solution used in Canada that offers the automated parking violation detection," said Bohdan Maslo, Edmonton's acting director of parking management.

Calgary spent \$750,000 in a legal battle with two former city employees over the intellectual property rights to the technology that was finally settled in April 2013.

It was an expense that Mayor Naheed Nenshi described at the time as well worth it, with the city retaining exclusive ownership of the technology and the ability to license it.

Financial details of Edmonton's proposed purchase remain confidential, but Carra said the city stands to benefit from this and any future deals.

"There's going to be a lot of people out there trying to build a better mousetrap, but right now we've got the best one on the market," he said.

"It all flows back to the benefit of Calgarians."

ROBSON FLETCHER/METRO

# 'We're taking bad money and using it for good'

## Civil Forfeiture Office.

More than \$7 million has been committed to crime reduction and prevention programs since 2008



MORGAN MODJESKI

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Whether it's seized currency from a weapons bust or the monetary result of the sales of drug house, the province's Civil Forfeiture Office (CFO) is turning proceeds of crime into community funding.

Since its inception in 2008, the CFO has collected forfeitures equaling a net value of \$12.7 million, more than \$7 million of which has been committed to various crime-reduction and prevention programs across the province.

One of the agencies to receive funding through the CFO in 2014 was the Servants Anonymous Society of Calgary (SASC), which helps women escape a life of prostitution.

"We helped probably 20 women escape a life of violence and exploitation," said Theresa Jenkins, interim executive director of SASC's Ask Seek Knock life-skills program, which was partially funded by \$125,000 received in 2014, part of a two-year commitment of \$250,000.

"They accumulate it based on the crime activity, the fines and stuff they confiscate, and they give it back to the community, which I think is a really good program," Jenkins said.



Theresa Jenkins, interim executive director of the Servants Anonymous Society of Calgary, said \$125,000 given to the society in 2014 has helped their clients escape the sex trade. The society is just one of 15 agencies and organizations that received funding in 2014. MORGAN MODJESKI/METRO

## The CFO

Since its inception, the CFO has obtained orders to sell roughly 230 vehicles and more than 30 residential homes used for marijuana grow operations.

- Those who have had their vehicles restrained as a

result of their alleged involvement with criminal activity can appeal to have their property returned.

- The CFO has received 800 files referred to them from various police agencies across the province.

of tools used in criminal activity, be it a car, house or other property, can also help deliver a long-term blow to scofflaws.

"The purpose of civil

forfeiture is to deter crime by making it unprofitable and this will prevent future crime by taking away the tools needed in criminal activity," she said.

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1 NEWS

# Axing art would be 'shortsighted': Nenshi



Mayor Naheed Nenshi speaks to the crowd on Thursday at the Mayor's Lunch for Arts Champions. JENNIFER FRIESEN/FOR METRO

## Public Art Program. Council to vote Monday on withholding funding

ROBSON FLETCHER AND  
JENNIFER FRIESEN  
calgary@metronews.ca

Suspending Calgary's Public Art Program, as one city councillor is proposing, would be a "terribly short-sighted move," Mayor Naheed Nenshi told a gathering of artists Thursday.

"The declining price of oil has the square root of zero to do with our public arts budget," Nenshi said at the Mayor's Lunch for Arts Champions, referring to Coun. Peter Demong's motion to suspend public-art spending.

The motion, due up at Monday's council meeting,

also calls for the Public Art Board to be "temporarily suspended until further notice."

In an interview Wednesday, Demong described public art as a "luxury" he's not sure the city can continue to afford, given Alberta's sagging economy.

Nenshi dismissed that justification as "an excuse" to attack a program that some members of council simply don't like.

"I think that this particular motion is terribly shortsighted," Nenshi said.

"It is based upon the changing economic situation but the price of oil actually has absolutely nothing to do with how we fund public art, where the funding comes from and certainly that funding is not in any way at risk."

Calgary Arts Development president Patti Pon said she

was "discouraged" by the suggestion that art is a "luxury," especially in the wake of the city's reaction to the death of Calgary theatre icon Michael Green, co-founder of One Yellow Rabbit, which saw numerous city landmarks illuminated in yellow to honour his memory.

"It wasn't artists who chose to turn the Calgary Tower yellow, or the Langevin Bridge, or the Stephen Avenue Walk, or Telus Spark — those were citizens who made that choice," Pon said.

"I don't know if there's ever been as important of an example, as visceral of an example of how much art matters to our city."

Daniel Doz, president of the Alberta College of Art and Design, said art is "essential" to a city and he's "worried" by suggestions to the contrary.

"A public art program is really a component of what makes a city attractive and I think we really must not forget that," he said.

"Do you want to live in a city that's average? That's boring? That's bland? No, of course not."

### Quoted

"... the price of oil actually has absolutely nothing to do with how we fund public art, where the funding comes from and certainly that funding is not in any way at risk." Mayor Naheed Nenshi

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# Panhandling tickets on the rise

**Bylaw.** Official says increase seen over last five years may be a result of a growing population in Calgary



**MORGAN MODJESKI**  
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Panhandling on a street corner in downtown Calgary, Richard Rajotte said he's never had a problem with city bylaw officers.

Rajotte, who has lived on Calgary streets for two years, said his approach to panhandling is congenial, and he has no sympathy for his forceful counterparts.

"The aggressive ones though, by all means, I think they should nail them all," he said.

Shortly after a woman stopped to give the elderly man a box of leftovers and some change, he said aggressive panhandlers give the entire a community a bad name.

"That annoys so many people that are out on the street and they've been there for years and years, everybody gets to know them," he said, adding many know him as the smiling guy on the corner.

While he's never had an encounter with the city's bylaw officers, the number of individuals who are improperly panhandling in Calgary is on the rise.

According to recent numbers from the city, panhandling tickets have more than doubled, with 144 given out in 2014, compared to 62 in 2009.

Carissa Vescio, with the City of Calgary's animal and bylaw services department, said the increase could be a result of the city's growing population, which has jumped by 10 per cent since 2009.

However, higher ticket numbers may not mean an increase in panhandlers.

From 2009 to 2014, city bylaw officers issued 503 warnings to regular offenders, according to Vescio.

"There's been a fair amount of tickets, but a lot of

those tickets have been given to the same people."

She explained bylaw officers are constantly working with those in need to try to get them the help they need.

Maggie Schofield, executive director with the Calgary Downtown Association, said aggressive panhandlers are a "huge concern" for her group, adding it's encouraging people to donate money to social agencies rather than to someone on the street.

"They have the ability to spread the money a lot further and do a lot more good with it," she said, adding sometimes people panhandle to feed an addiction.

"That's not always the case, but if they go to places like the Mustard Seed and the Drop-In Centre, those are the people that can actually help them in so many different ways."

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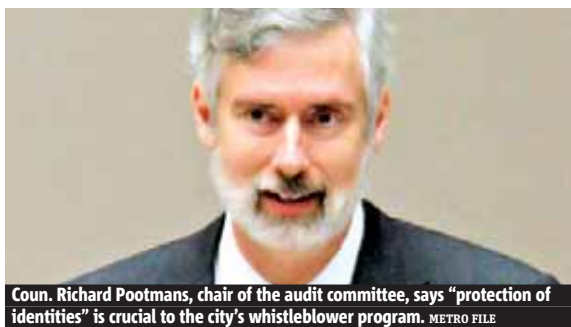
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Richard Rajotte says he's never received a ticket for panhandling. Having lived on the streets for more than two years, he says he's always polite while asking for change, but he has no sympathy for those who are forceful.

MORGAN MODJESKI/METRO

## Complaints against councillors to stay secret



Coun. Richard Pootmans, chair of the audit committee, says "protection of identities" is crucial to the city's whistleblower program. METRO FILE



**ROBSON FLETCHER**  
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Details of the whistleblower complaints that led Calgary city councillors to agree in December to take "workplace sensitivity" training won't be made public because it risks identifying the people who filed the complaints, the city's audit committee heard Thursday.

"Generally, the whistleblower program is not like an

audit, where you would ever actually have a public report," city auditor Kathy Palmer told committee members, adding that the files are "very secure" and shared only on a "needs-to-know basis."

This applies generally to any complaints under the whistleblower program, she added, which "runs according to council policy."

"It's not information that we would release for any reason, just because of the nature

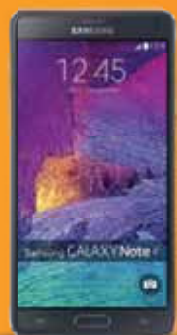
of the type of investigation that could lead up to potential dismissal, could lead to criminal charges — there's just a number of reasons why these reports are not made public," Palmer said. "And that's not unusual in any other organization that runs a whistleblower program."

Coun. Richard Pootmans, the audit committee chair, said "the primacy in this issue is the protection of the whistleblower" and the public reports need

to be scrubbed of information that could give "any inkling" of who is filing complaints.

"If it's a small business unit and full disclosure is given, then that whistleblower no longer enjoys much protection and can often be easily identified with several different pieces of information," Pootmans said.

"At the base of these programs is, in fact, the protection of identities. Without that, we have no whistleblower program."



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## Crime. Police recover firearm after altercation at NE leisure centre

The Calgary Police Service is seeking one suspect and has arrested two other people after they were called to an altercation at the Village Square Leisure Centre on Wednesday night.

Police say at roughly 8:30 p.m., three men were involved in a fight at the centre and when officers arrived, they were able to take two of the men into custody. A third fled on foot.

"When (the altercation) was called in, some of the information that we had was that there was a gun involved and we did locate a gun in a vehicle associated to the people that were arrested," said Det. Sean Spence of the Calgary police.

He explained officers are still investigating and are now probing the cause of the altercation.

Police say the man who fled on foot is described as an East Indian man, in his late teens to early 20s,

### Quoted

**"Some of the information that we had was that there was a gun involved ..."**

Det. Sean Spence, Calgary police.

wearing a black jacket, dark jeans and a grey cap.

He explained while it's a concern any time a firearm is involved, the fact the incident occurred so close to a public space was worrisome.

"I don't know how busy the leisure centre was," he said.

"But if it's a populated area, or it's busy with patrons, then of course there's always the greater risk to public safety than if it was just in a vacant area within the city."

Police say their investigation is ongoing.

MORGAN MODJESKI/METRO

# OUTWIT, OUTSMART ... GET ELECTED?



IN DEFENCE OF  
Mike Morrison  
calgary@metronews.ca

Politics can be a complicated game. There's trust, lies, secret deals and a lot of backstabbing. Actually, politics is a lot like Survivor, only instead of buff bods, we get ill-fitting suits.

After watching 29 seasons of Survivor, there's one lesson to be learned: Form an alliance or, as I suspect the Alberta Liberals are about to find out, face a swift elimination.

Yes, even though the PCs seem to be just hopping from one controversy to the next, their dominance in the game that is Alberta politics is all but guaranteed. Why? Well, let's go back to my Survivor analogy.

Every season, the show starts with a cast of strangers. Then, as the season goes on, they start to group off. Those who don't immediately fit in are voted out first. Let's call them Green Party of Alberta.

Then, some of the castaways realize what's happening and try to make alliances. Let's call those people the Alberta Party. They offer other like-minded castaways like the Liberals and NDP the opportunity to make one big alliance. But those castaways refuse, because they want to play a clean game. But as Jeff Probst would tell you, in this game, you have to get a little dirty. And here's the twist: Way back during the show's first episode, do you know who already made a big powerful alliance? The PC party.

So, while smaller alliances think they're playing the game, the PC tribe picks the rest of the players off one by one. All the while, those watching at home are screaming at the Alberta Party, Liberals and NDP to do something — anything.

After all, who doesn't root for the underdog? Oh and what about the Wildrose party? In the reality TV world, we call them floaters. They act a certain way, but when push comes to shove, they'll just do what-

### Death of the left?

**To be frank, unless the left starts working together, I think we're looking at a complete annihilation of the progressive parties. And they'll be the ones to blame.**

ever the PCs want. The floaters never win, either.

So is it game over for the actual progressive parties? It doesn't have to be. Survivor has been filled with plenty of unbelievable comebacks. And as the Alberta Party is seemingly trying to highlight, if they started working together, then they would at least stand a chance. Which, at this point, is pretty much all the NDPs, Liberals and Alberta Party could hope for.

To be frank, unless the left starts working together, I think we're looking at a complete annihilation of the progressive parties. And they'll be the ones to blame.

The Liberals seem to be unbelievably stubborn about their ideologies. But as someone in the PC party once said

to me, "There are lots of different ideologies in the PC party, they just all live under the same tent." In Survivor terms, instead of sitting on a cold beach by themselves, PC party members are choosing to stay warm and dry in their tent. And do all those people in that tent like each other? No, but they all have their eyes on the prize.

But Alberta politics isn't reality TV, it's just our reality, and right now, the Liberals owe it to Albertans to come up with a real plan. They have no choice but to work with other progressive parties. They can't possibly think that they can go it alone again, can they? It doesn't work on TV and it certainly won't work in the real world.

Mike Morrison tweets from @mikesbloggity.

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# Province consulting on one-card approach



The province will be asking Albertans for their opinions on a combined driver's licence and health card later this year. RYAN TUMILTY/METRO

**ID.** Idea would bring driver's licence, health card together



**RYAN TUMILTY**  
ryan.tumilty@metronews.ca

The Alberta government is inching closer to having one card to rule them all, with

plans for consultation on an Alberta identity card pulling health care and driver's licence information together.

The government has posted a tender asking for an outside firm to hold consultations with Albertans on the issue. They emphasized no decisions have been made on the issue and this is just another step forward.

"A public consultation would determine what Alber-

tans' priorities are in terms of having something like that or not," said Calli Strommer, a spokeswoman for Service Alberta. She said the idea is to create simplicity both for government and for citizens.

"Instead of fishing around for your Alberta Health Care card, you could just present your single government issued ID," she said. "It's ... been on their business plan for a number of years. Other jurisdictions have gone the way of a blended card."

She said they're also consulting with other provinces who have made similar moves.

Edmontonian Darren Mann said he would welcome the change. He said the extra cards can be cumbersome and he

## B.C.'s system

- British Columbia started its transition to a one-card system in 2013 and has given residents until 2018 to replace their existing cards.
- The new card has more security features and the province hopes it will also reduce fraud in the health-care system.

would appreciate simplifying. "It makes sense," he said. "I lost my wallet once and if you could get one replacement instead of two that would be good."

## ISIL. White House summit hears of mother's project

The efforts of a grieving Canadian mother were highlighted at a White House summit this week as an example of how to turn the tide in the online war against ISIL.

According to some participants at the three-day summit on countering violent extremism, it's been a lopsided fight. Its gory videos keep surfacing on websites, its online magazines invite youth to the jihadist cause, and its hackers even temporarily seized the social-media accounts of U.S. government and military agencies.

One presenter pointed out a rare response to that online onslaught of jihadist propaganda: Christianne Boudreau's participation in a video about the death of her son in Syria. The young man from Calgary was one of an estimated 20,000 people from 100 countries who went to fight with ISIL.

In a speech earlier Wednesday, President Barack Obama acknowledged the struggle with social media.

"Terrorist groups like al-

## Quoted

"We all know very well that ISIL could give master classes in branding and peer-to-peer social-media marketing."

Sasha Havlicek of the Institute for Strategic Dialogue

Qaida and ISIL deliberately target their propaganda in the hopes of reaching and brainwashing young Muslims," Obama told the conference. "The high-quality videos, the online magazines, the use of social media, terrorists' Twitter accounts — it's all designed to target today's young people online in cyberspace."

Government can't fight that battle alone, said one presenter. Sasha Havlicek of the London-based Institute for Strategic Dialogue said her group launched the Extreme Dialogue project this week in Calgary, with the release of two videos.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

## Eckville

### Man in hospital after reports of attack on Mounties

A man is being assessed in hospital and will likely face charges after punching one Mountie in the head and choking another in Eckville on Thursday, according to Sylvan Lake RCMP.

The man assaulted the officers as they tried to place him under arrest for causing

a disturbance at the post office, RCMP said in a release.

"During the arrest the male resisted and was able to get behind one of the officers and began to choke the one officer and was able to punch the other one in the head area," the release states, adding that the man tried to take the police officers' guns.

Additional officers helped subdue the man, who was taken to the Red Deer Regional Hospital to be assessed.

Police expect to lay formal charges against him. METRO

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## Health. Alberta flu deaths reach twice the normal rate

Influenza has been lab-confirmed in 78 people who died in the province this flu season, according to the latest data from Alberta Health Services.

Of those deaths, 28 occurred in the Calgary health zone and 24 in the Edmonton health zone.

Chief medical officer of health Dr. James Talbot said in January the "normal death rate" in Alberta is between 30 and 40 by the end of a flu season.

Talbot also said "elderly Albertans have been impacted

### Cases in Calgary

# 403

There have 1,378 lab-confirmed cases of influenza in Alberta so far this flu season. Of those, 403 were in the Calgary health zone.

the most" by the H3N2 strain of flu virus that has been circulating this season.

Each major city's health zone has seen hundreds of cases of lab-confirmed influenza this year. **METRO**

### Economy

## NDP launches petition to fight corporate tax freeze

The Alberta NDP is launching an online petition to urge Premier Jim Prentice to reverse his decision to not hike corporate taxes.

NDP Leader Rachel Notley says it's unfair for Prentice

to freeze corporate taxes and oil royalties while signalling there will be hikes in personal income taxes and user fees.

Prentice has said hiking Alberta's 10 per cent corporate tax would harm the economy at a time it is already reeling from billions of dollars in lost revenue due to low oil.

Notley says hiking the tax by even one percentage point would deliver \$500 million in revenue. **THE CANADIAN PRESS**

# Dirks sidesteps questions about Catholic GSA memo

**Schools.** Education minister says he has 'met with a broad range of stakeholders,' but advocate says that's not enough



**JEREMY NOLAÏS**  
jeremy.nolais@metronews.ca

Alberta's education minister is refusing to address a memo being circulated by Catholic school trustees that claims any legislation concerning gay-straight alliances (GSA) would intrude on their rights.

Metro has previously provided a copy of the memo to a staff member in Education Minister Gordon Dirks' office and has written two stories on the matter. But Dirks said in a news scrum Thursday he wouldn't "comment on any individual, specific group, other than to



**Kris Wells, advocate and director of the Institute for Sexual Minority Studies and Services at the University of Alberta, says the government needs to take action to provide "unqualified support" for GSAs. METRO FILE**

say I've met with a broad range of stakeholders ... a broad spectrum of individuals who have an interest and concern in this matter."

Dirks has been touring

around the province and has met with members of already established gay-straight alliances in certain public schools.

The Alberta Catholic School Trustees' Association said in

its controversial memo that the province already has the "strongest anti-bullying language in Canada," and that "no additional legislation is necessary."

Dr. Kris Wells, co-director of the Institute for Sexual Minority Studies and Services at the University of Alberta, has said the document "really does draw a line in the sand."

Reached Thursday, Wells said it's time for the government to take action to provide "unqualified support" for GSAs.

"That's what the surveys and the polls show Albertans want and that's what the government needs to deliver," he said.

But Dirks said he had plans for further meetings.

"I'm continuing to do that this week, have done that earlier this week with stakeholders who are interested in the issue.... Eventually, a decision will be made with what we're doing going forward with regards to that."

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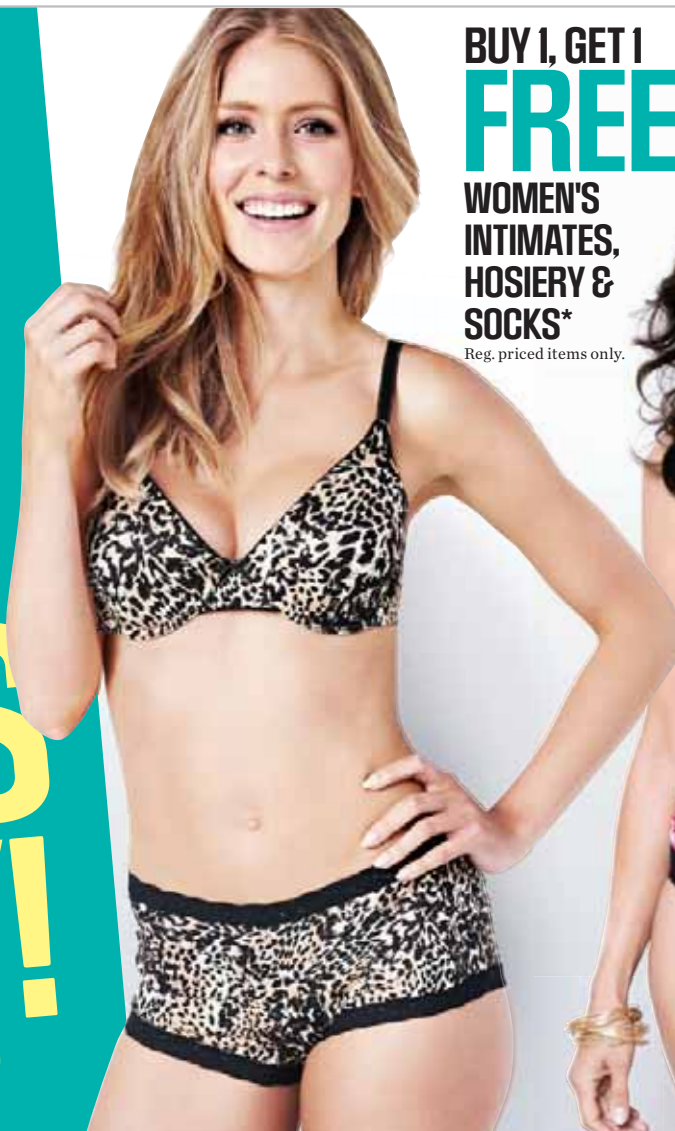
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# No decision on health premiums: Premier

Premier Jim Prentice says no final decision has been made on whether to bring back health-care premiums in Alberta.

"The minister talked about this as a concept yesterday," Prentice told The Canadian Press Thursday. "There's been no decision made about how a health-care premium would or would not be devised and executed."

Finance Minister Robin Campbell broached the issue

with reporters by saying he was "keen" on the idea.

Campbell said the premiums could be paid by individuals, not by their employers as was often the case before they were abolished seven years ago by then-premier Ed Stelmach.

Prentice didn't rule out bringing them back, saying it's part of a wider discussion on the reform of Alberta's public finances as the province goes through yet another

cycle of government cutbacks driven by collapsing oil prices.

"The minister of finance and I are talking about a process that defines a fiscal framework for Alberta for the next 10 years," Prentice said. "This is not about a single budget, it's about Alberta's overall public finances and the structural changes that need to be made."

"His comments need to be taken in that context. There have been no final de-

cisions made."

Critics were quick to react after Campbell's remarks.

"Health-care premiums would certainly hit vulnerable Albertans the hardest," said New Democrat Leader Rachel Nottley in a release.

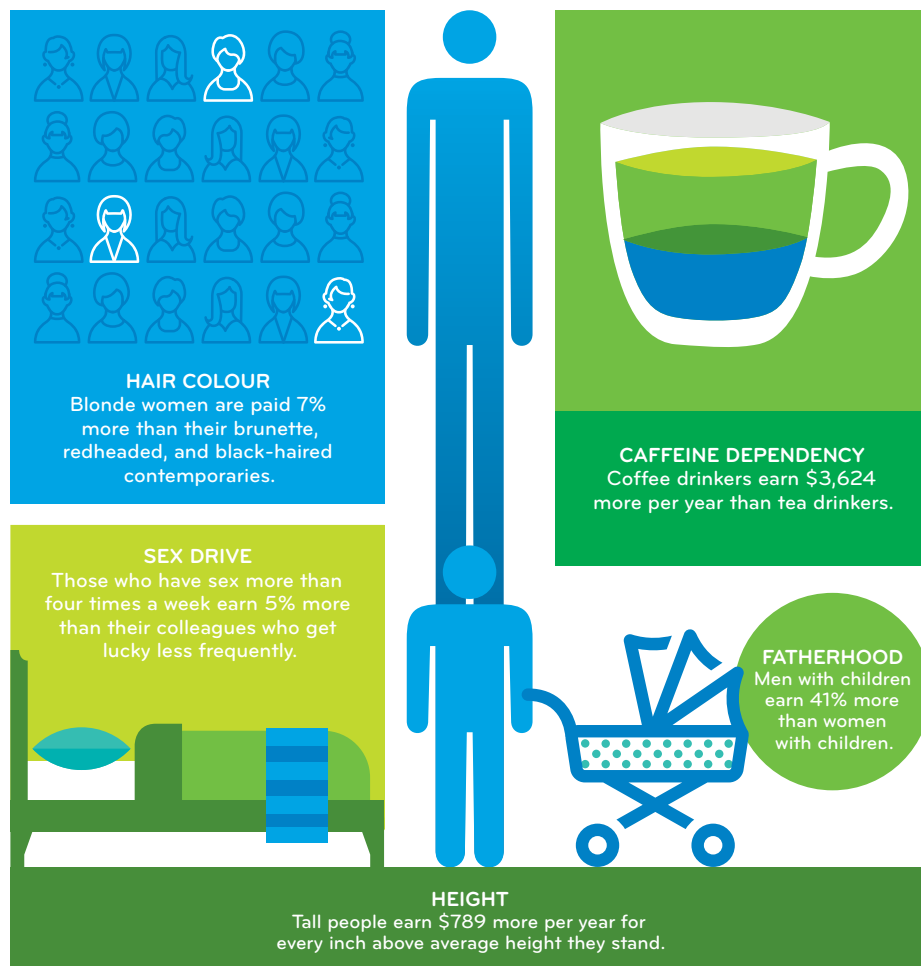
Prentice said health-care premiums needn't fall heaviest on low income Albertans.

"It depends how it's developed and it doesn't need to be regressive."

THE CANADIAN PRESS

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Paul Carrick, back right, has spent two weeks in Sierra Leone helping to prevent the spread of Ebola. PHOTO COURTESY CAUSE CANADA

## Canmore man oversees \$100k Ebola grant

**Sierra Leone.**  
Founder of Cause Canada helping virus survivors rebuild lives in West African nation

JENNIFER FRIESEN  
calgary@metronews.ca

As the Ebola epidemic rages on in West Africa, Paul Carrick flew to Sierra Leone to oversee the spending of a \$100,000 grant from the Alberta government.

The Canmore-based foreign-aid worker is the founder of Cause Canada, an organization that has been overseeing anti-poverty programs in Africa since 1988. When Ebola struck West Africa last spring, the organization shifted all its efforts to preventing the spread of the disease and assisting survivors.

Carrick said that survivors of Ebola are suffering in unexpected ways as well. He described farmers and carpenters returning to their villages after treatment to find that their tools had been taken, their crops had been harvested — and some even had their homes burned to the ground

to eradicate the disease.

"We're moving into a post-Ebola period," he said.

"So we're identifying survivors and retooling them to replace things that they've lost as a consequence of this. We need to champion for their rights and remind the whole nation that they're not dangerous, they pose a threat to no one now."

Approximately \$60,000 will be allocated to helping survivors rebuild their lives and replace what they lost. The funding has also helped pay for 800 chlorine hand-washing stations, posters and radio broadcasts with Ebola prevention messages.

The number of active Ebola cases have diminished from the initial outbreak, but Carrick said the fight isn't over yet. In the week of Feb. 8 alone, 144 new cases of Ebola were reported.

"Just because it's gone off the front pages in Alberta doesn't mean it's gone away," he said. "So we need continued compassion and interest in the plights of West Africans."

In March, Cause Canada will host an event in Canmore to raise money for survivors in West Africa, but details are yet to be confirmed.







# Looming cuts turn parents into advocates

**Education.** As schools face overcrowding, less funding, more people getting 'more involved'



**JEREMY NOLAÏS**  
jeremy.nolais@metronews.ca

This year, 30 kindergarten students were crammed into a single class at Banff Trail School, a dozen more than the province suggests.

Banff Trail has no physical education teacher. Parents at the school say they must raise tens of thousands of dollars for new classroom technology or their kids go without.

Natalie Odd will likely see first-hand the effects of what the Calgary Board of Education describes as inadequate funding. When her son Mateo attended kindergarten at Banff Trail, there were about 20 kids in his class. Now, her younger boy Sebastian could very well be in a room with 30 kids when he starts school next fall.

"We're already facing

## By the numbers

# 22

At Banff Trail School, the average class size for kindergarten to Grade 3 students jumped to 22 students this year, from 20.5 in 2013-14.

budgets that are very difficult for schools to work with and now we're facing further cuts. It's deeply, deeply concerning," Odd said. "If we want them (students) to be successful in their later years — middle school, high school — we have to have a solid foundation in elementary.... You can't go back and do those grades later on."

The CBE has indicated it's already in dire financial straits as provincial funding has declined consistently since 2012 and now hovers below \$9,480 a year per student. In recent days, both students and teachers have spoken out to Metro about the conditions in their schools.

In January, 60 parents from Banff Trail attended a meeting with two MLAs — a



Natalie Odd expects her younger son Sebastian Benson, 4, left, to be in a much more crowded kindergarten class than her older son, Mateo Benson was at Banff Trail School. MORGAN MODJESKI/METRO

Tory and a Liberal — and the area's CBE trustee.

"The message we were given is that the parents have to step up and advocate effectively for their children,

that we can't just expect it (increased funding) is going to happen without making our voices heard," Odd said.

But it doesn't stop at lobbying elected officials. Caro-

lyn Blasetti, vice-chair of the Banff Trail parent council and treasurer of the school's fundraising association, said she spends several hours a week arranging casinos and other fundraising endeavours.

"We're using \$10,000, \$20,000 to buy technology for the classroom," she said. "The CBE doesn't have the money for that, so there's an expectation that we have to fundraise for these important items that teachers need."

Karen Lloyd, president of the Calgary Association of Parents and School Councils, agreed that the role of a parent has changed.

Lloyd has been visiting schools to encourage parents to sign a petition calling for more education funding.

"As soon as I tell them (fellow parents) what it is, they're snatching the pen out of my hand," Lloyd said.

Lloyd said she never recalled her own parents steering advocacy efforts concerning her schooling.

"Parents are definitely more involved in the politics of education than they used to be," she said.

## Behavioural effects

## Development could suffer: Pediatrician

A Calgary pediatrician is warning that serious childhood developmental issues could go unchecked in classrooms packed too full.

Dr. Lori Walker said the situation at Banff Trail School, where a kindergarten class has 30 kids in it, is "horrible."

"When you have a class of 30 kids, those children's needs are not being met," she said.

Walker said early childhood is critical to avert behavioural issues later.

"It's going to be tougher to pick up those kids that are struggling," she said. "So, then they get to Grade 1 or Grade 2 and they're way behind their peers or hating school. Well, we've missed the boat on those kids then."

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# Dirks stands behind 'outstanding' starters

Alberta's education minister says school boards made a "compelling argument" to skip construction of "starter schools" but continues to reject any notion that the modular-based buildings wouldn't have been up to par.

Gordon Dirks's comments came Thursday, one day after his ministry surprised many with an announcement that it would proceed straight to erecting full-scale facilities in 12 Calgary and Edmonton communities.

Previously, those neighbourhoods were to see starter schools opened that would likely have lacked proper gymnasiums, libraries and learning common areas.

In response, both Calgary's public and Catholic school boards, as well as their peer boards in Edmonton, wrote letters expressing concerns about the sites.

But Dirks reiterated previous statements that starter schools are a viable option and didn't rule out moving ahead with such developments in other areas in the future.

"This had nothing to do with the quality of the facilities —



Education Minister Gordon Dirks says changing plans to build full-scale schools has nothing to do with criticism that modular-based starter schools were lower quality. METRO FILE

starter schools are outstanding facilities," he said.

"This is all about responding to the requests from school boards, who, having done further analysis on their parts, requested that we move to full-build so that we could get more spaces opened quicker."

The full-build schools will house between 600 and 900

students apiece — far more than the 250 anticipated to fit inside starter facilities.

The schools come at a time when student populations have mushroomed in Alberta's major centres.

Still, the sites will open a few months later than originally targeted, more likely during the 2016-17 school year. JEREMY NOLAÏS/METRO



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Carly Cheung, centre, holds up a handful of seeds with her Grade 7 leadership class at the Calgary Girls' School. The class raised almost \$900 to Grow Calgary, which then became a gift of one million seeds for the organization.

JENNIFER FRIESEN/FOR METRO

## Girls raise money for a million seeds

**Grow Calgary.** Students at local school held a fundraiser and rounded up nearly \$900 within a few days

### Quoted

**"It's one thing for a teacher to have you do something, but it's a whole other things to do something really big by yourself."**

Anjali Ford, a Grade 7 student at Calgary Girls' School

JENNIFER FRIESEN  
calgary@metronews.ca

A plan sprouted by city Grade 7 students to help feed vulnerable Calgarians grew into a donation to help purchase one million seeds.

Back in December, Lisa Hood, teacher at the Calgary Girls' School, told her leadership class about Grow Calgary. Within a matter of days, the girls held a fundraiser and rounded up almost \$900 for the cause.

After the class participated in the Stuff-a-Bus campaign, they noticed that a majority of donated food was processed or boxed. Twelve-year-old Carly Cheung, one of the girls in the class, said that she wanted to help people have access to healthy options.

"I imagined myself in the position of someone who

didn't have the nutritious food that we have," she said.

"And if you have a family, it would be even worse, because it's one thing to not be able to feed yourself, but it's another thing to know there are a whole bunch of people who you love that you can't feed either. That really motivated me."

The Grow Calgary farm is Canada's largest urban garden.

It sits on an 11-acre plot of land, with volunteers growing fresh produce for the Calgary Interfaith Food Bank. Paul Hughes, who organized the massive effort, said the girls' effort is "inspiring to the entire organization."

He said the donation will not only pay for one million seeds for the next harvest, but will also be used to invest in their "seed farm," which cultivate seeds that can thrive in Alberta.

"What the seed farm is doing, and what the girls are contributing to, is the development of a local seed that is resilient for the Calgary environment," he said.

Anjali Ford, 12, said she didn't expect to raise so much money, but now that they have, she feels like she made a difference.

"I feel really proud because we came up with this idea ourselves," she said. "It's one thing for a teacher to have you do something, but it's a whole other things to do something really big by yourself."

Hood said that the girls were inspired by the fact that Grow Calgary was helping to feed those in need in a new way, and they wanted to help any way they could.

"And a million seeds later — here we are," she said.

The class is hoping to help plant the seeds in the spring.



# Mayor's lunch honours local artists

The Mayor's Lunch for Arts Champions honoured seven Calgary artists on Thursday, marking three years since its inception.

The event, organized by Calgary Arts Development and the Mayor's office, brought over 675 Calgarians to the BMO centre, where artists were recognized with the Cultural Leaders Legacy Artist awards.

The recipients of the

## Quoted

**"My heart is always in Calgary."**

Calgary artist Rebecca Northan

\$5,000 cash prize this year included Aaron Sidorenko, Mamraz Salehi, Nicole Mion, Mark Ikeda, Col Cseke, Studio C and Rebecca Northan.

In addition to the money, Northan received a residency

at The Banff Centre. As a theatre actor and a born-and-raised Calgarian, she's been a part of the Loose Moose Theatre for years.

She said that one of the things she's learned from Loose Moose Theatre is to invest in the next generation.

During lunch, she did just that, and she surprised an audience member and Loose Moose Theatre volunteer, Ellis Lalonde, with \$1,000 of

her winnings.

Northan said the arts community in Calgary is tight-knit, and although her work takes her across the country, she will always be drawn back home.

"It just feels like this city has continued to gel together and there's a tremendous amount of support, it really feels like one big family here," she said.

JENNIFER FRIESEN/FOR METRO



These seven local artists were recognized on Thursday for their work in music, dance and innovation. JENNIFER FRIESEN/FOR METRO

## Montana. Canadian may be rerieved as move to end death penalty passes hurdle

Legislation to abolish Montana's death penalty received a significant boost this week as the bill, which would impact Canadian Ronald Smith, passed a major hurdle.

The judiciary committee in the lower house of Montana's two-tier legislature stalled earlier bills to abolish the death penalty in 2007, 2009, 2011 and 2013. They had been introduced and then passed by the state senate.

This year the bill, which was introduced by Republican Rep. David (Doc) Moore, started out on the house side and made it past the judiciary committee by an 11-10 vote.

"I am shocked it got out of committee. I was as surprised as anybody," Moore said in a telephone interview. "I've really got a tiger by the tail now."

Moore says the bill, which would abolish executions and replace them with a sentence of life imprisonment with no chance of parole, must now be voted on by the state house of representatives no later than Feb. 27.

"I honestly don't know what will happen," Moore said. "I think there's enough votes on the house floor for it to pass."

If it passes, it would go through a similar process in Montana's senate.

Moore is worried there may be another attempt by proponents of the death penalty to refer it to another committee in order to kill it.

"The people who are against it are really against it."

If passed as written the legislation would be retroactive to include Smith, 57, and another death-row inmate, William Jay Gollehon.

Smith, who is originally from Red Deer, Alta., was convicted in Montana in 1983 for shooting to death two cousins while he was high on drugs and alcohol near East Glacier, Mont.

He refused a plea deal that would have seen him avoid



Ronald Smith was convicted in Montana in 1983 in the fatal shooting of two cousins.  
THE CANADIAN PRESS FILE

death row and spend the rest of his life in prison. Three weeks later, he pleaded guilty. He asked for and was given a death sentence.

Smith had a change of heart and has been on a legal roller-coaster for decades. An execution date has been set five times and each time the order was overturned.

Moore said bringing forward the legislation isn't about seeking leniency for those on death row, but about eliminating the costs of the protracted legal wrangling involved in a death penalty case.

Ron Waterman, a senior lawyer for the American Civil Liberties Association, testified before the judiciary committee that the death penalty system is flawed and there is the risk of executing an innocent person.

He said the costs also mitigate the benefits the death penalty gives a prosecutor trying to negotiate a plea bargaining.

"Once triggered, the defendant is entitled to massive exposure to defend against such charges. No prosecutor will spend over \$400,000 just to try having a tool to use in a plea bargaining," Waterman said.

"The death sentence does not deter crime or other capital crimes." THE CANADIAN PRESS



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## Sexual assault. Calgary police warn of release of 'long-term offender'

Calgary police are warning the public about a "long-term offender" who's been released from prison.

Michael Andrew Scott, 42, is now in the Calgary area after having served a seven-year sentence for break-and-enter, aggravated assault, forcible confinement and breaching his recognizance conditions.

Scott has a history of committing offences dating back to 1991, including multiple sexual assaults. He has been known to target female strangers in public places or their homes, police warn.

His assaults in the past have been described as "impulsive in nature and include exposures, masturbation and fondling as well as threats of death, use of weapons and physical force."

Scott stands 5-foot-10, weighs 190 pounds and has brown hair and green eyes.

"The Calgary Police Service is issuing this information and warning after



Michael Andrew Scott

COURTESY CALGARY POLICE SERVICE

careful deliberation and consideration of all related issues, including privacy concerns, in the belief that it is clearly in the public interest," police said in a statement.

"Members of the public are advised that the intent of the process is to enable members of the public to take suitable precautionary measures and not to embark on any form of vigilante action." **METRO**

# There was no Big Bang: Lethbridge prof's paper

**Science.** Work contradicts conventional wisdom the universe originated from a 'singularity' about 13.8 billion years ago



ROBSON FLETCHER

robson.fletcher@metronews.ca

How can something come from nothing?

That question has confounded philosophers for millennia, but for Saurya Das, who recently devised a mathematical model suggesting the Big Bang never happened and the universe has simply existed forever, it's no big deal.

"I don't think there's anything wrong with that," said the University of Lethbridge physics professor. "We'd just have to get used to that fact, I guess."

Das co-authored a paper published this month in the prestigious journal *Physics Letters B*, which has been garnering all sorts of attention in the cosmology community for convincingly contradicting the conventional wisdom that the universe originated from a "singularity" about 13.8 billion years ago.

And while it explains a lot of what we have so far observed about the universe, that singularity — commonly known as the Big Bang — comes with some inherent problems, too.

"The singularity is basically where all theories and all physics breaks down, so nobody really likes that," Das said.

In other words, the best current theories can explain only what happens immediately after the Big Bang, not during or before it. Even the idea of "before" the Big Bang is itself a conundrum, as the singularity is thought to be the origin of space and time.

But the model developed

### Quoted

**"Of course, it brings new problems, new questions, like: What was the universe before what we think is the Big Bang? ... A lot of us would be interested in investigating those things further."**

Saurya Das, U of F physics professor

by Das and Ahmed Farag Ali — who was a PhD student at the University of Lethbridge before taking a faculty position at Benha University in Egypt — sidesteps that problem, as it simply posits there was no singularity and the universe's existence has been eternal.

The model conveniently seems to address other cosmological conundrums, as well, including the inherent tension between Einstein's gen-

eral theory of relativity and the more recently developed quantum theory.

Das said he's been encouraged to see such interest in the model but cautioned there's still plenty more work to do.

"We need more confirmations and more careful study of our model, for sure," he said. "We have to understand the mathematics better and whatever predictions it makes has to be tested with observations."

And even if his work turns out to fundamentally alter our understanding of where everything comes from, Das noted it would be far from the final answer.

"Of course, it brings new problems, new questions, like: What was the universe before what we think is the Big Bang?" he said. "But that's great, because a lot of us would be interested in investigating those things further and hopefully getting answers to them, in due course."

*"If you want to make the world a better place, this is the point at which you start"* **Stephen Kaiswatum**

Stephen grew up in government care and learned early the value of caring adults in his life. With the support of amazing mentors, and a personal drive to create a bright future, Stephen is now in University and caring for his younger brother. Together with other leaders in our community, Stephen is spreading the word that mentoring can change the course of person's life.

Our youth come from all ethnicities, backgrounds and personal circumstances. In Calgary and area, young people are waiting for a volunteer to step forward and be their friend. If you have a couple of hours a week and want to make a difference, please join us.

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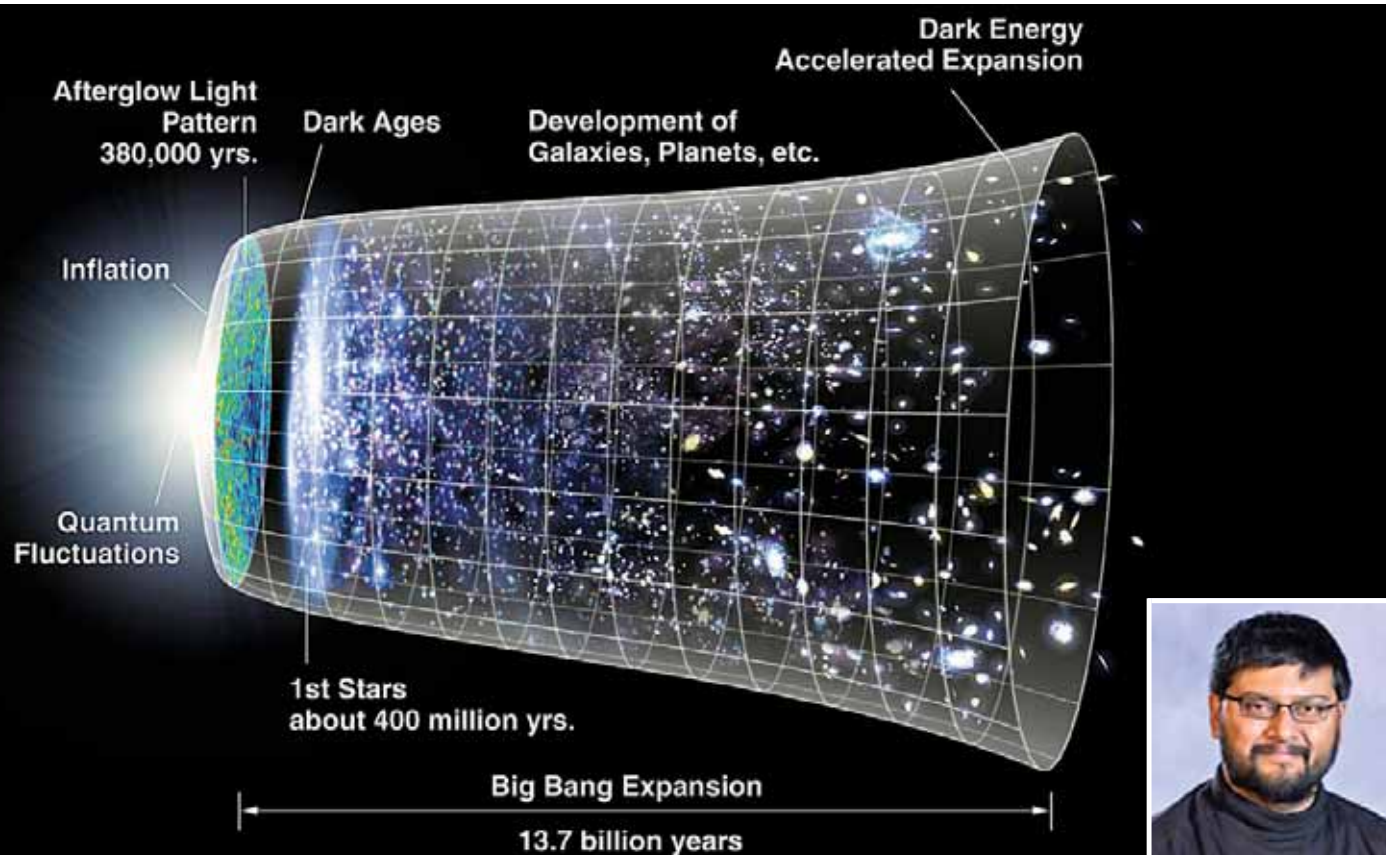


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In this artistic conception of the origin of our universe, the Big Bang is illustrated at the left and the expansion of the universe, which isn't depicted to scale, runs from left to right. Inset: Saurya Das, professor of Physics and Astronomy at the University of Lethbridge, whose work challenges the theory of the Big Bang. COURTESY NASA; CONTRIBUTED

**Morinville**

## RCMP pick up man wanted by police for more than two years

RCMP in the Edmonton area have captured a man who was wanted by police for more than two years.

The Morinville detachment says Ronald Sparling, who is 38, was taken into custody at a gas station in Bon Accord on Tuesday.

Police say Sparling walked away from an Edmonton halfway house in January 2013.

He was wanted on a number of charges that included being unlawfully at large.

He is now facing an additional charge of resisting arrest.

Sparling is from Gibbons, Alta., and is to appear in Stony Plain provincial court on March 4.

He remains in custody.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

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## It's Lucky the Bison knocking

Sandy Melanson pets a bison at her front door in Dryden, Ont., on Tuesday. Melanson says the runaway bison from a nearby ranch came up the driveway and right up to their front door. She says the animal, named Lucky, has wandered away a few times from the Northern Buffalo Ranch down the road.

HANDOUT/THE CANADIAN PRESS

## Family of strip-searched teen to sue school board

The lawyer representing the family of a 15-year-old girl who was strip-searched at a Quebec City high school says they intend to take the school board to court.

Lawyer Francois David Bernier says the high school misinterpreted government guidelines on searching students and humiliated his client.

The incident sparked outrage across the country after the girl told a local paper she felt violated by the search one week ago. The school proceeded with the search after officials suspected her of selling drugs.

The school board said in a news release that administrators at the Neufchatel high school followed government and police guidelines for conducting school strip searches.

The government guidelines, however, do not specifically mention naked searches.

The school said the girl was made to take off her clothes and stand behind a blanket while school officials searched her clothing.

"In no case does the document talk about nude searches," Bernier said. "We blame the school board because it took the government document and interpreted it erroneously."

Bernier said he has not officially filed any documents in court and is still evaluating the damage done to his client.

He added that the family is not ruling out seeking punitive damages against the school and the governing board.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

# Kenney praises anti-terrorism bill

**Security.** More homegrown jihadist terror attacks possible, says defence minister

Defence Minister Jason Kenney sang the praises of the federal government's anti-terror bill Thursday as he used his maiden speech to Canada's military establishment to warn that more homegrown terror attacks are likely.

The country is engaged in a long-term ideological struggle with radical Islam, Kenney told the annual Ottawa gathering hosted by the Conference of Defence Associations

Institute.

"We need only to look to Copenhagen, to Paris, to Brussels and to Sydney," Kenney said.

The notion that western civilization and style of government are never going to be challenged is wrongheaded, he added.

Kenney, who took over from Rob Nicholson earlier this month, says the country "shouldn't overreact to this threat, nor should we underreact."

Debate over the government's proposed Bill C-51, which would increase the powers of security agencies, notably the Canadian Security Intelligence Service (CSIS),

began earlier this week in the House of Commons.

The concerns of the bill's critics are exaggerated, Kenney said. "We are taking all of these steps while respecting the rights of Canadians."

New Democrats oppose the legislation. The Liberals have said they will support it, but promise to fix some of the flaws if they form government after this year's election.

One of the loudest complaints about the bill is that it lacks additional oversight of intelligence services to prevent possible excesses.

The government says no new mechanisms or bodies are needed beyond what already exists. THE CANADIAN PRESS

### Budget

**DND, CSIS, RCMP unable to spend \$11B since 2007**

New figures show the country's three major national security institutions were collectively unable to spend \$11 billion of their budgets over the last eight years.

The statistics on lapsed funds at National Defence, the CSIS and the RCMP were presented today. The numbers contrast with the rosy assessment of the government's defence spending record as presented by Jason Kenney. Kenney dismissed the argument over lapsed funding, saying all departments do it as part of the budget process.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

## Fahmy says Al Jazeera partly at fault for ordeal

Canadian journalist Mohamed Fahmy, who is awaiting retrial after more than a year behind bars in Egypt on terrorism-related charges, said his employer — Al Jazeera English — is partially to blame for his grinding ordeal.

Fahmy said it would be "naive" and "misleading" to see the case purely as a crackdown on press freedom, because it was complicated by Al Jazeera's "negligence" and Qatar's use of the outlet to "wage a media war" against Cairo.

"I am not losing sight of who put me in prison," he said, referring to the Egyptian prosecutors, who failed to present any evidence related to the terror charges.

"However, Al Jazeera's epic negligence has made our situation harder, more difficult, and gave our captor more firepower," Fahmy said.



Mohamed Fahmy THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

"It is an infringement on freedom of speech to silence three innocent, recognized journalists. Yet a very important aspect of this case is Qatar abusing its Al Jazeera Arabic platform in waging a media war against Egypt," he said.

Al Jazeera officials did not respond to emails seeking comment. The broadcaster spearheaded a global media campaign calling for the release of the reporters, insisting they were unjustly punished.

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## Anti-marijuana lawsuit filed

Colorado Rep. Jonathan Singer, D-Longmont, speaks during a news conference in Denver in reaction to the announcement that a federal lawsuit is being filed early Thursday on behalf of two Colorado citizens to shut down the state's \$800-million-a-year marijuana industry.

DAVID ZALUBOWSKI/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

# Two 'superbug' deaths linked to dirty instrument

**Antibiotic resistance.** Incompletely sterilized endoscope carries lethal bacteria

A "superbug" outbreak suspected in the deaths of two patients at a Los Angeles hospital has raised questions about the adequacy of the procedures for disinfecting a type of medical instrument used on more than a half-million people in the U.S. every year.

At least seven people — two of whom died — have been infected by a potentially lethal, antibiotic-resistant strain of bacteria after undergoing endoscopic procedures at Ronald Reagan UCLA Medical Center between October and January, and more than 170 other patients may have been exposed as well, UCLA said.

The germ is known as Carbapenem-resistant Enterobacteriaceae, or CRE, and similar outbreaks have been reported around the nation. They are difficult to treat because some varieties are resistant to most

known antibiotics.

UCLA said Wednesday that the infections may have been transmitted through at least two contaminated endoscopes that were used to diagnose and treat pancreatic and bile-duct problems.

An endoscope — or more specifically in this case, a duodenoscope — is a thin, flexible fibre-optic tube that is inserted down the throat to enable a doctor to examine an organ. The device typically has a light and a miniature camera.

"We notified all patients who had this type of procedure, and we were using seven different scopes. Only two of them were found to be infected. In an abundance of caution, we notified everybody," UCLA spokeswoman Dale Tate said.

The two medical devices carried the bacteria even though they had been sterilized according to the manufacturer's specifications, UCLA said.

More than 500,000 patients undergo procedures using duodenoscopes in the U.S. every year, according to the FDA.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

## Washington

### Anti-gay florist to appeal ruling

A florist in Washington state who refused to provide flowers for a gay wedding plans to appeal a judge's ruling that she broke a state anti-discrimination law.

Alliance Defending Freedom says the ruling threatens the financial ruin of 70-year-old Richland florist Barronelle Stutzman, along with her

business, Arlene's Flowers. The organization says it will file the appeal on her behalf.

Benton County Superior Court Judge Alex Ekstrom on Wednesday rejected arguments that Stutzman's actions were protected by her freedoms of speech and religion.

Ekstrom says the First Amendment protects religious beliefs but not necessarily actions based on those beliefs. **THE ASSOCIATED PRESS**

## Terrorism

### PLO argues against compensating terror victims

The PLO and Palestinian Authority should not be blamed for terror attacks in Israel that killed or wounded Americans in the early 2000s, the groups' lawyer told a New York City jury Thursday, but the victims' attorney insisted the organizations sanctioned

the bloodshed.

The civil case in Manhattan and another in Brooklyn have emerged as the most notable attempts by American victims of the Palestinian-Israeli conflict to use U.S. courts to seek damages that could reach into the billions of dollars.

Defence attorney Mark Rochon said there was no proof the PLO sanctioned the six attacks alleged in a 2004 lawsuit. **THE ASSOCIATED PRESS**

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<b>2010 LEXUS RX350</b>  <b>9 TO CHOOSE FROM</b> NICE CLEAN SUV!!! 84,000KM'S <b>6376A</b> WAS \$34,000 <b>SALE \$30,000</b>	<b>2010 LEXUS RX350</b>  <b>9 TO CHOOSE FROM</b> PRICED TO SELL!!! 90,000KM'S <b>6343A</b> WAS \$34,000 <b>SALE \$29,000</b>	<b>2009 BMW 328i XDRIVE MANUAL</b>  <b>9 TO CHOOSE FROM</b> VERY CLEAN CAR!!!, PREMIUM W/ SUNROOF & DINAN PACKAGE ONLY 93,000 KMS <b>6391A</b> WAS \$28,000 <b>SALE \$24,000</b>	<b>2008 DODGE VIPER SRT-10</b>  <b>BELOW COST!!!</b> CALGARY CAR!!! 700HP!!! BELOW COST BLOWOUT!!! ONLY 11,000KM'S <b>6149A</b> WAS \$81,000 <b>SALE \$65,000</b>

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# Rebel fighters gain control of key town

**Debaltseve.** Retreating Ukrainian soldiers grim with at least 13 dead and hundreds missing, captured

For the rebel fighters who seized control of this strategic town, Thursday was a day of jubilation and bragging of victory. The retreating Ukrainian soldiers were grim, stunned and relieved to have escaped with their lives as the scope of their losses became clearer: at least 13 dead and hundreds missing, captured or wounded.

Rebel fighters roamed the debris-littered streets of De-

baltseve, laughing, hugging and posing for photos a day after the fall of the furiously contested railway hub. Associated Press journalists found its neighbourhoods destroyed and all under the control of the rebels.

On the road out of town, dozens of Ukrainian military vehicles, many riddled with bullet holes and with their windshields smashed, were heading to the government-held city of Artemivsk.

The soldiers inside described weeks of harrowing rebel shelling, followed by a hasty retreat. "We left under heavy fire, driving on back roads," said a soldier who gave only his first name, Andrei. "As

we were leaving, we were attacked by artillery and grenade launchers. We came under repeated attack by tanks and assault groups."

As rebels waved separatist flags, Nikolai Kozitsyn, a Russian Cossack leader and prominent warlord in the rebel-controlled east, drove around in a Humvee-like vehicle captured from Ukrainian troops.

All around lay the wrecked remains of Ukrainian armoured vehicles. Rebel fighters, many of them Cossacks, searched through the bunkers and tents of an abandoned military encampment, looking to salvage equipment and clothing left behind.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS



A pro-Russia rebel cossack, second left, hugs another rebel in Debaltseve, eastern Ukraine, Thursday.  
PETER LEONARD/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

## Muslims must fight 'ugly lie' that West is at war with Islam: Obama



President Barack Obama speaks at the Countering Violent Extremism (CVE) Summit, Thursday. PABLO MARTINEZ MONSIVAIS/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

President Barack Obama called on the world Thursday to confront efforts to use Islam to justify violence, saying Muslim communities in particular have a responsibility to push back on "twisted interpretations of Islam" and the belief that the West is at war with the religion.

With ISIL spreading and terrorists gaining strength in the Mideast and Africa, Obama has sought to use a White House

summit this week on violent extremism to urge the world to broaden its response far beyond military interventions. U.S. airstrikes have managed to blunt some of the militants' gains in Iraq and Syria, but they don't address the extreme ideologies that underpin deadly groups such as ISIL, al-Shabab and Boko Haram.

At the summit's closing session at the State Department, UN Secretary-General Ban Ki-

moon said the United Nations system will work on a "comprehensive multi-stakeholder plan of action to prevent violent extremism" that will be presented to the General Assembly later this year. He said that as a first step, he will convene a special event in the next months "that will bring together faith leaders from all around the world to promote mutual understanding and reconciliation."

In his speech, Obama vowed that "in Iraq and Syria, our coalition of some 60 nations, including Arab nations, will not relent in our mission to degrade and ultimately destroy ISIS," referring to the Islamic State of Iraq and the Levant by one of its acronyms.

But he also urged delegates from 65 countries to "confront the warped ideology" espoused by terror groups.

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BUSINESS

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## Walmart workers in U.S. getting raises

Wal-Mart Stores Inc. is spending \$1 billion to make changes to how it pays and trains U.S. hourly workers as the embattled retailer tries to reshape the image that its Walmart stores offer dead-end jobs. As part of its biggest investment in worker training and pay ever, Wal-Mart Stores Inc. told The Associated Press that within the next six months, it will give raises to about 500,000 workers, or nearly 40 per cent of its 1.3 million U.S. employees. **THE ASSOCIATED PRESS FILE**

# Battery maker files suit against Apple

**Electric cars.** A123 Systems alleges staff poached for nearly identical division amid reports of secret Apple electric vehicle project

Battery maker A123 Systems is suing Apple, claiming it aggressively poached some key staff members in violation of their nondisclosure and non-compete agreements when they left A123.

According to a lawsuit

filed in U.S. District Court in Massachusetts, A123 is seeking a restraining order and preliminary injunction to stop former employee Mujeeb Ijaz from hiring former A123 employees at Apple, where he now works. A123 makes lithium-ion batteries for electric cars and other products.

"It appears that Apple, with the assistance of defendant Ijaz, is systematically hiring away A123's high tech PhD and engineering employees, thereby effectively shutting down various projects/programs at A123," A123 says in the complaint.

General Motors and Tesla Motors have electric cars in the works, and Nissan is already selling an electric car called the Leaf.

The suit is the latest development in A123's checkered history. It received a \$249-million US grant from the Department of Energy in August 2009 to help it build U.S. factories, but it posted repeated losses and struggled for several years as Americans have been slow to embrace electric cars. It filed for Chapter 11 bankruptcy protection in 2012, sold off assets and reorganized. **THE ASSOCIATED PRESS**

### Coming down the wire

- General Motors said Thursday it will start building the Chevrolet Bolt electric car in 2017. It will have a 320-kilometre range and will cost \$37,500 US.
- Tesla Motors plans to start selling a 320-kilometre-per-charge car about the same time. The Model 3 price is likely to be well below \$30,000 US.

## Pipeline. TransCanada to seek approval for Upland

The Canadian company behind the long-delayed Keystone XL oil pipeline will seek U.S. government approval for another pipeline — this one going north.

Industry officials in North Dakota say the proposed Upland Pipeline could reduce reliance on the railroads to ship crude following recent concerns about safety.

TransCanada Corp.'s proposed \$600 million US Upland Pipeline would begin near the northwestern North Dakota oil hub of Williston and go north into Canada about 320 kilometres. At peak oper-

ation it would transport up to 300,000 barrels of oil daily, connecting with other pipelines, including the Energy East pipeline across Canada.

TransCanada hopes to have the Upland Pipeline operating in 2018, pending approval from the U.S. State Department, North Dakota's Public Service Commission and Canada's National Energy Board.

TransCanada has been trying for years to get U.S. approval for the 1,179-mile Keystone XL, which would connect Canada's tar sands to refineries on the U.S. Gulf Coast. **THE ASSOCIATED PRESS**

### Market Minute



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80.01¢  
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**Natural gas:** \$2.834 US (-0.3¢)  
**Dow Jones:** 17,985.77 (-44.08)



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### LEGAL NOTICE

#### Notice to Juan Martinez Mendez

Take notice that the Applicant has applied for a Divorce in the Court of Queen's Bench of Alberta, Judicial Centre of Calgary and related relief as set out in the Statement of Claim for Divorce.

And further take notice that your whereabouts being unknown a Justice of the Court of Queen's Bench of Alberta has directed that you be served with notice of these proceedings through this newspaper publication.

If you wish to receive a copy of the Statement of Claim filed against you, you should contact the Clerk of the Court of Queen's Bench, Judicial Centre of Calgary by (403-297-7282) and supply an address where a copy may be sent to you.

If you do not file a Statement of Defense or Demand of Notice within 20 days of the date of the publication of this notice in this newspaper, the Applicant may note you in Default and apply for such remedies and relief (without further notice to you) as they may be entitled, based on their Statement of Claim filed.

Dated at Calgary, Alberta February 20th 2015.

And published by order of the Court of Queen's Bench of Alberta

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**2007 Mazda 6 GT** B6107  
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**2014 Nissan Versa 1.6 SV** B6085  
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**2013 Buick Verano** B6145  
40,120 km • Auto • Cruise • Keyless Entry

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**2010 Ford Escape XLT** B6134  
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**2008 Honda Ridgeline EX-L** RE0845A  
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**2013 Acura ILX** SF0329A  
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**2009 Nissan Pathfinder SE** B6035  
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**2009 Acura MDX Tech** B6092  
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### Notice of Hearing For Permanent Guardianship Order To Alfredo Julian

Take notice that on the 31st day of March 2015 at 9:30 a.m., at Calgary Family Court, Courtroom #821, 601 – 5th Street SW, Calgary, Alberta, a Judicial Dispute Resolution will take place.

Take notice that on the 2nd day of April 2015 at 9:30 a.m., at Calgary Family Court, Courtroom #1206, 601 – 5th Street SW, Calgary, Alberta, a Pre-Trial Conference will take place.

Take notice that on the 11th and 12th days of May 2015 at 9:30 a.m., at Calgary Family Court, Courtroom #1206, 601 – 5th Street SW, Calgary, Alberta, a Trial will take place.

A Director, under the Child, Youth and Family Enhancement Act will make an application for: **Permanent Guardianship Order** of your children born on **October 7, 2009** and **May 25, 2011**. If you wish to speak to this matter in court, you **MUST** appear in court on this date. You do have the right to be represented by a lawyer. If you do not attend in person or by a lawyer, an Order may be made in your absence and the Judge may make a different Order than the one being applied for by the Director. You will be bound by any Order the Judge makes.

You do have the right to appeal the Order within 30 days from the date the Order is made.

Contact: Diane Charlebois; Jackie Ellice; Daniella Eggink  
Calgary and Area Child and Family Services  
Phone: (403) 297-2978

## Barrick sticking to gold, Thornton says

**Mining.** Gold miner's chairman says he has no plans to diversify into other metals

Barrick Gold chairman John Thornton is promising a leaner company with a disciplined focus on its best assets and a decentralized operating model that gives its mine operators more control.

"When companies falter, it is usually because they've forgotten their original DNA — that is to say, what it is that made them distinctive and gave them their purpose and values and made them successful," Thornton told analysts Thursday.

"We believe the only way to recapture that is to consciously go back to the future and understand who we were, what made us distinctive, what gave us our purpose and



Barrick Gold Corporation's chairman John Thornton. THE CANADIAN PRESS FILE

our values and reinterpret that for the 21st century."

Barrick — which reported a \$2.85 billion US fourth quarter loss after markets closed Wednesday — has struggled in recent years with weakness in the price of gold and problems developing its new mines.

The company has written down the value of its oper-

ations, including its stalled Pascua-Lama project in South America, reduced its head office staff by nearly half, and eliminated layers of management between Toronto and Barrick's mines.

When it was announced in December 2013 that Thornton would take over as chairman from Barrick founder Peter Munk, he suggested he would look at diversifying into other commodities.

On Thursday, however, Thornton said Barrick would be focused on gold.

"We have no plans to diversify into other metals and we have no plans to add to our existing copper position," Thornton said.

The gold miner said it plans to reduce its net debt by at least \$3 billion US this year and look to sell its Porgera joint venture in Papua New Guinea and Cowal mine in Australia.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

CN Rail

### Union looking at setting March-end strike deadline

A strike vote by 4,800 Canadian National Railway employees represented by Unifor will begin as early as next week, with the union saying it is aiming for an end-of-March strike deadline after the failure of five months of contract talks.

Unifor president Jerry Dias says the union is setting a strike deadline close to the end of next month to give CN customers time to make alternate arrangements. His remarks came after a meeting of union workplace representatives at CN and CP Rail to review the contents of the agreement Unifor reached on Feb. 14 with CP Rail. The 1,800 Unifor members working at CP will vote on the package over the next two weeks. THE CANADIAN PRESS

Air Canada

### Union suspends contract talks

The union representing about 4,100 Air Canada employees said it has suspended talks on a new contract for customer sales and service agents after Air Canada released planned changes to shift-trading rules. Unifor said the airline cited concerns about reporting of hours worked and health and safety issues as reasons for the changed rules. A spokesman for Air Canada said "the shift change process is being modified to ensure compliance with federal regulations."

THE CANADIAN PRESS

## Negative inflation likely: BoC

Inflation

0.3%

In its monetary policy report, the Bank of Canada predicted the annual inflation rate to hit 0.3 per cent in the second quarter of 2015 before climbing back up to 1.9 per cent at the start of 2016.

The turbulence of the global oil slump could briefly nudge the Canadian inflation rate into negative territory this spring, a senior Bank of Canada official said Thursday.

But deputy governor Agathe Cote offered some reassurance, saying that even if the annual rate dips below zero it would not be considered deflation. She noted that true deflation, which can be damaging for an economy, would require a period of widespread price declines.

"Rest assured — even if inflation turns negative for

some time that would not constitute deflation," Cote said in prepared remarks of a speech she delivered in Mont-Tremblant, Que.

"When inflation expecta-

tions are solidly anchored, as is now the case in Canada, there is no reason to fear deflation."

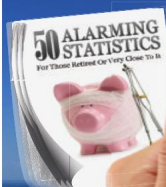
The central bank tries to keep inflation close to an ideal two per cent target and it can adjust its trendsetting interest rate to help the economy hit that bull's-eye.

With lower crude prices expected to continue pushing down on inflation in the coming months, Cote cautioned the potential sub-zero scenario could happen in the second quarter of 2015.

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# Trump sues city over noise ordinance

**Doral.** Miami suburb issues more than 100 violations to resort

Just weeks after city officials in suburban Miami decided Donald Trump was worthy of having a key to the city, he's accusing them of having an unconstitutional noise ordinance.

Trump told the Miami Herald on Wednesday that Doral needs a noise ordinance with "specific rules and regu-

lations." Records show that since August, the city's code compliance department has issued more than 100 violations to Trump's resort, Trump National Doral. Most violations are for the resort's lawn maintenance crews making "unreasonably loud noise."

In a lawsuit filed Feb. 12, Trump said the ordinance "is vague and ambiguous in its definition of prohibited activity, and provides the city's Code Enforcement Department with unfettered discretion for determining whether

a violation exists."

The city has yet to be served the paperwork, but City Attorney Daniel Espino told the Herald on Wednesday that he's disappointed a lawsuit was filed. "Instead of striving to resolve the residents' noise concerns, the Trump resort has escalated this situation unnecessarily," Espino wrote in an email.

Trump rejects the accusations against his resort.

"This is the finest resort in the world and you have to cut the grass," Trump said. "Why

is it that we have brand new equipment and get fined, when the people who had the property before me didn't get any citations?" he said.

Trump's lawyers say each violation carries a \$1,500 US fine and he's already spent \$50,000 US in legal fees to fight the citations. They say since buying the property out of bankruptcy in 2012, Trump has pushed the city to amend the noise ordinance.

The resort recently hosted the Miss Universe pageant.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS



Donald Trump. ANDREW H. WALKER/GETTY IMAGES

## Apps. Yahoo releases new mobile toolkit

Yahoo will try to harvest revenue from mobile applications outside its own crop of services as CEO Marissa Mayer scours the digital landscape for more growth opportunities.

The expansion is being attempted through a set of free tools that Yahoo Inc. announced Thursday during the company's inaugural conference for the makers of mobile applications.

As part of the toolkit, Yahoo is offering to distribute ads in other mobile apps besides its own. Yahoo also is trying to plant its search engine inside other apps so it can display ads alongside the results.

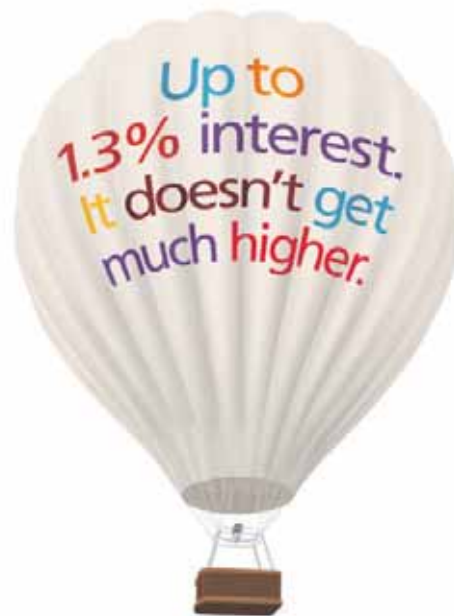
Yahoo would take a cut from the ad sales on other apps, building on the \$768 million US in mobile revenue that the company generated last year. That amount lags far behind mobile ad leaders Google and Facebook, both of whom already run wide-reaching mobile ad networks that deliver promotions to other digital services besides their own.

Powered by its dominant search engine, Google Inc. held a 37 per cent share of

the U.S. mobile ad market at the end of last year with social networking leader Facebook Inc. at 18 per cent, according to the research firm eMarketer Inc. Yahoo's share stood at 3 per cent, a gap that mirrors the same problems that the company has faced competing against Google and Facebook for digital ad sales on personal computers for the past eight years.

Mayer, who helped build Google into a powerhouse, pledged to turn things around when Yahoo hired her as its CEO 2-1/2 years ago. Since Mayer's arrival, Yahoo's stock has soared because of the company's lucrative stake in China's rapidly growing Alibaba Group. Meanwhile, Mayer has struggled to rejuvenate Yahoo's revenue growth, even though advertisers are pouring more money into digital advertising.

Yahoo plans to spin off its remaining 15 per cent stake in Alibaba into a separately run holding company by the end of the year, a decision that will deprive Mayer of her financial crutch and intensify the pressure on her to boost revenue to keep investors happy. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS



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## Big trucks. Groups urge collision alert, auto braking devices

Four highway safety groups have asked U.S. safety regulators to require tractor-trailers and big buses to have devices that alert drivers to stopped traffic and brake the trucks if drivers don't respond.

The groups — Advocates for Highway and Auto Safety, the Truck Safety Coalition, the Center for Auto Safety and Road Safe America — petitioned the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration Thursday seeking the requirement for trucks weighing 10,000 pounds or more. They say the systems could prevent more than 2,500 crashes per year, but the agency hasn't required them.

Such systems use radar, cameras and computers to detect objects in front of a vehicle. If the computer determines a crash is imminent, it warns the driver and can even brake vehicles to a stop, preventing a crash. Such devices are becoming common on luxury cars and are making their way into less-expensive automobiles.

The groups contend that from 2003 to 2008 there were 32,000 crashes in which trucks rear-ended other vehicles, killing at least 300 people per year and injuring more than 15,000. They say only three per cent of the three million tractor-trailers on the road now have the technology. The groups contend the electronic devices could limit truck-car crashes in highway construction zones, where car drivers are stopped and particularly vulnerable. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS



Yahoo President and CEO Marissa Mayer delivers the keynote address at the first-ever Yahoo Mobile Developer Conference Thursday in San Francisco. ERIC RISBERG/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

## Tobacco giant helps quit effort

Cigarette maker Reynolds American Inc. is partnering with a pharmaceutical consultancy to develop products that help people stop smoking.

The tobacco company's agreement with Maryland-based Pinney Associates comes as tax increases, health concerns, smoking bans and social stigma cut into demand for cigarettes and more smokers try to quit. Reynolds CEO Susan Cameron also has been vocal about the company's

interest in transforming the tobacco industry with new products that can reduce the health impact of tobacco use. Reynolds will also be working with Pinney Associates on policies that aim to reduce the harmful effects of tobacco.

As part of the agreement, Reynolds American's Nicotiv USA unit will partner with a Pinney affiliate to develop a new kind of nicotine gum and other nicotine-replacement products like

electronic cigarettes. The Winston-Salem, North Carolina, company bought Nicotiv, which makes nicotine gum, pouches and spray products, in 2009.

The maker of Camel and Pall Mall cigarettes is currently expanding its Zonnic brand nicotine gum nationwide, challenging the pharmaceutical industry's hold and pricing power of the market for products to help people stop smoking. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

## VOICES

## CELEBS DON'T KNOW WHAT THEY'RE TALKING ABOUT

THE KOHLER  
REPORT

By Rebecca Kohler

Is it just me, or has there been an uptick lately in celebrities touting pseudo-medical advice that seems particularly unsound? From weird pubic care to body-binding workout regimes, the tabloids are starting to look more like quack medical encyclopedias than entertaining gossip rags.

One of the most recent examples of weird body care advice comes from Gwyneth Paltrow vis-à-vis the V-Steem. Gwyneth recently wrote a post on her lifestyle website, GOOP, about how she had her vagina steamed: "You sit on what is essentially a mini-throne, and a combination of infrared and mugwort steam cleanses your uterus, et al." she insisted. "If you're in L.A. you have to do it." Sorry, G., but I have my next trip to L.A. all planned out and it involves eating tacos, not cleansing them.

While I used to view celebrity advice and websites such as GOOP as just irritating (GOOP is hard for me to read because my eyes won't stop rolling), I'm starting to wonder if this stuff is actually dangerous.

After Gwyn poached her pants area, doctors went berserk online, citing all sorts of reasons why that is a terrible idea. That part of the

female body has an ecosystem and sending steam through the chute has the potential to throw it off balance. I'd say the idiom, "If it ain't broke, don't fix it" has never been truer than when referring to a vagina.

Kim Kardashian has also touted some iffy practices to the common people. Kim is a fan and advocate of "waist training," which involves wearing a corset, even while you work out — the stupid idea being that you sweat more in your abdomen area. Also, the corset is making your waist tinier because ... well it's not, because that's impossible. Look, I get the science behind binding a baby, but trying to shrink your waist as an adult? You're fully-grown and your bones are hard. Deal. But KK has posted several selfies in her corset and the masses are listening.

Doctors are upset about the corsets, too. Wearing a corset for extended periods of time — "waist trainers" wear them for up to 12 hours a day — can not only weaken your abdominal muscles but also actually make them atrophy. "Look at my tiny waist! Pay no attention to the shrivelled, dead muscle."

Then there's Selma Hayek, a vocal fan of juice cleanses and/or detoxes who insists that's how she maintains her sexy figure. Studies prove both of these practices to be useless. Real doctors will tell you that your body has a

## No steaming necessary

**After Gwyn poached her pants area, doctors went berserk online, citing all sorts of reasons as to why that is a terrible idea.**

natural detoxification system in place — liver, lungs, skin etc. — and doesn't need your help.

Let's not forget the celebrity anti-vaxxers who may or may not be partly responsible for the recent measles outbreak in North America. Jenny McCarthy is famously outspoken in saying vaccinations cause autism — which, for the MILLIONTH time, they DON'T — and reality star Kristin Cavallari joined in the fun last year, stating, "Here's the thing ... There are very scary statistics out there regarding ... vaccines and what they cause: asthma, allergies, ear infections ..." Ear infections? Seriously, lady? Even if that were true, are you saying you'd rather your kid get measles than an ear infection? (I got an ear infection just listening to the interview.)

Considering celebs are rich and successful and generally good-looking, it makes sense that people would look to them for life advice. But as "successful" as someone like Kim Kar-

dashian is, we have to remember she's not a professional of any sort. The best teachings she has to offer probably involve dislodging a bad wedgie.

Please don't take advice from celebrities because a) it can be dangerous; b) it'll cost you a fortune; and, c) when we hear these snippets about their "amazing lives," we're not getting the full story. Did it ever occur to Salma Hayek that she's hot because she can afford \$800 face creams and personal trainers and chefs to cook her healthy meals? Gwyneth Paltrow might be steaming her vagina to fill a void (no pun intended) left by her "conscious uncoupling" and Kim Kardashian's waist looks small because she has big boobs and a booty. As for Kristin Cavallari, not vaccinating her kids might be her best bet at getting any sort of publicity. If you absolutely feel like your vagina needs a steam (mine is pretty steamy on its own) or you could lose a few pounds or inches, then OK, but talk to a doctor first. I know your doctor is boring compared to a Hollywood star, but that's because he/she studied a lot to know what's best for you.

*Rebecca Kohler is a stand-up comic, writer, actor, gymnast, lawyer and chemist. (Some of this isn't true.) Follow her on Twitter at @becca\_kohler*

## Happy face/Sad face

From top dogs to uncomfortable visits, Metro weighs in on the news that made headlines this week:



## FAKING IT

Oregon man Aleksander Tomaszewski, who was arrested on suspicion of sexual assault, has gained a couple new charges after allegedly beating himself up while in custody, and trying to blame police for his injuries. Video shows a man punching himself in the face as many as 60 times in his holding cell. Just a reminder folks, Big Brother is watching you. Especially if you're in a police station.



## DOG-GONE RIGHT!

America's top dog is a Canuck! A mild-mannered beagle named Miss P was named Best in Show at the prestigious Westminster Kennel Club at Madison Square Garden this week. The pooch, who originally hails from Enderby, B.C., has already made the morning talk show circuit and met Donald Trump.



## ROYALLY EMBARRASSING

Like any obligatory trip home to see the parents whose privilege you've spent a lifetime trying to escape but never fully disowned, Canada's visits to England always feel a little off. This time, the weirdness took place at Thursday's official reopening of Canada's newly refurbished high commission in London. Unaccountably, John Baird was there representing us. He's even referred to as foreign minister on the commemorative plaque. You'll recall, of course, that he quit that job weeks ago. Yeah. Awkward.



## TIGHTY WHITEYS

This week in amazing excuses: A Manitoba MP is holding cheap, ill-fitting underwear to account for a "brief" absence from his seat in the House of Commons while a vote was being counted. "I can blame it on a sale that was down at the Hudson's Bay; they had men's underwear on for half price. I bought a bunch that was clearly too small," said Winnipeg Centre representative Pat Martin. Cheeky, Mr. Martin, very cheeky.



## STRIP-SEARCHED TEEN

Quebec school officials are under serious fire after strip-searching a 15-year-old student over suspicions she was hiding marijuana. The province's education minister defended such searches as a reasonable safety measure provided they are done in a "respectful" manner. The girl's parents and civil-rights groups vocally disagree.





Focus on fashion



Kathy Griffin  
GETTY IMAGES

## Kathy Griffin is ready to rip on the red carpet

Kathy Griffin likes to joke (or is she serious?) that, one year on her tax return, she put her profession as "Anonymous." Such is her multi-hyphenate stature: a standup comic, sitcom star, reality-show queen, periodic D-Lister and, now, host of Fashion Police, E! network's couture critique.

Griffin has retrieved the mantel from Joan Rivers, who presided riotously in cahoots with her Joan Rangers until her death last summer.

"She obviously left very big shoes," said Griffin.

"But we agree that it's essential to comedy to be fearless and not be afraid to make enemies — certainly, in Hollywood! C'mon, we're not talking about heads of state here."

As for viewing, Griffin says: "I haven't decided whether to go to a party where I can get more material, or just watch at home, judging harshly in silence."

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

# NPH's time to shine

**Interview.** First-time Academy Awards host talks about nerves, his hosting heroes and what he'll do if Kanye crashes the stage

Neil Patrick Harris might use his job as Oscar host as a way to meet his favourite stars. "I have, essentially, an all-access pass to the theatre," Harris said during a recent interview.

"So I love being able to stand there and say hello to people I've never met before. I'm very easily star struck, so it'll be very exciting to shake hands with celebrities."

Harris has hosted the Emmys twice and the Tony Awards four times — and has won both awards. On Sunday, he takes on his first Oscar show. The multitasking entertainer took a few minutes between rehearsals to talk about his plans for the big night.

**How is preparing to host the Oscars different from the Tonys or Emmys?**

I want to make sure my content is inclusive of everyone watching, and more people watch the Oscars than any other awards show probably combined. I have more filters probably, in terms of content... The Oscars — it's a ritual for many people. They see it every single year, and all around the world. So I want to be a little classier and try to be a bit more mainstream while trying to maintain a wink and a nod to those in the know.

**You watched all the past Oscar hosts as part of your**

**research. Who stood out for you, and who would you most like to emulate?**

My initial answer would probably be Billy Crystal. I was just the right age to be so taken by movies as an idea, and he had such joy and exuberance about the world of film... But as I've done more research, I'm even more impressed now by the older-school generation of Johnny Carson, Bob Hope, and their ability to stand in one place and make (people) feel comfortable just in their demeanour. Because it's a very classy night — everyone's in their tuxedos and fancy dresses — so I'm hoping to make it feel like an A-list dinner party that you get to come and attend.

**How nervous are you?**

Well, my job as host is to not be nervous when the show is happening. But I think, in life, being nervous about something that's forthcoming is very helpful, whether it's an awards show or a family gathering or a job interview. If you're too calm and confident, then I think you aren't executing to the best of your ability. So

I try not to let nerves get the best of me, but I welcome them because it tends to fuel me to try harder.

**Have you prepared for the possibility of Kanye West coming onstage?**

I think the security at Saturday Night Live is still holding him in his seat there from last (week's) show. So, fingers crossed, he's detained in New York City. No, nothing would make me happier than something as random as that, as Kanye West deciding to participate in the show in some way. That's why you want to watch the Oscars. We hope for things to happen that you'll only experience by watching it... The crazier the better, as far as I'm concerned.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

## What to watch and when

**CTV begins Oscar coverage at 4:00 p.m. on Sunday.**

• E!Talk's Red Carpet Special starts at 4:00 MT. Ben Mulroney and Lainey Lui will be on a balcony capturing a bird's eye view of red carpet arrivals.

• The Oscars Opening Ceremony, hosted by Good Morning America anchors Robin Roberts and Lara Spencer, starts at 5 p.m., showcasing the nominees, presenters and performers arriving on the ABC red carpet.

• The main event starts at 6:30 p.m.

• You have to be a subscriber to CTV Go to watch the broadcast online. Anyone can stream coverage from the Academy Awards press room at [ctv.ca](http://ctv.ca).



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# If Metro could hack the Academy vote

Rather than waste your time with Oscar predictions, which are bound to be wrong anyway, here's something slightly more useful: What we'd pick, if anyone had asked us.

NED EHRBAR & MATT PRIGGE

For Metro



The Grand Budapest Hotel CONTRIBUTED

## Best picture

**What should win:** Wes Anderson's *Grand Budapest Hotel* is the kind of carefully crafted, completely realized vision that should be edging out *Boyhood* and *Birdman*.

**What should have been nominated:** If the Academy had any guts or vision, it would have celebrated the singular, twisted vision of Dan Gilroy's *Nightcrawler*, a truly disturbing masterpiece.



Wes Anderson GETTY IMAGES

## Best director

**Who should win:** Given that he's created his own style of filmmaking, it's frankly incredible *The Grand Budapest Hotel* creator Wes Anderson hasn't won a directing Oscar yet.

**Who should have been nominated:** With the ScarJo alien opus *Under the Skin*, Jonathan Glazer created a genuinely unique film, one that owes as much to the way it was created as it was filmed.

## Best actor

**Who should win:** Hype demands Michael Keaton or Eddie Redmayne win this, but Bradley Cooper's steely and very, very, very quietly anguished turn in *American Sniper* was one of the reasons the film was more complicated than its fans and detractors claim.

**Who should have been nominated:** Mysteriously, Ralph Fiennes' super-alert creation — Monsieur Gustave H. in Wes Anderson's *The Grand Budapest Hotel* — both debonair and lowbrow (and sometimes in the same rattled-off line), was snubbed in favour of actors mostly playing real people.



Bradley Cooper in American Sniper CONTRIBUTED

## Supporting actor

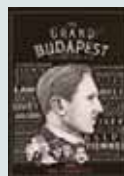
**Who should win:** He may be only slightly less intimidating than his Oz Neo-Nazi, but J.K. Simmons' jazz instructor in *Whiplash* was still a thoroughly embodied portrait of a sociopath.



**Who should have been nominated:** As a 60-year-old virgin, Stellan Skarsgard helped make sure Lars Von Trier's porn epic *Nymphomaniac* was the infamous filmmaker's funniest and most humane film.

J.K. Simmons  
GETTY IMAGES

## Best original screenplay



**What should win:** Wes Anderson's films are constructed top-to-bottom, and the riots of pink and spot-on performances in *The Grand Budapest Hotel* are nothing without the solid foundation of its script.

**What should have been nominated:** Justin Simien's *Dear White People* shuffles around a score of characters and provocative ideas like pieces on a chessboard.

## Best adapted screenplay

**What should win:** Paul Thomas Anderson should take this one. He did the impossible in bringing a Thomas Pynchon novel to the screen.

**What should have been nominated:** The Writers Guild decided *Guardians of the Galaxy* was worthy of recognition, so why couldn't the Academy? Yes, it's a comic book movie, but it's a damn fine comic book movie.

## Best actress

**Who should win:** For once, everyone seems to be in agreement, because no performance this year came close to inevitable winner Julianne Moore for *Still Alice*.

**Who should have been nominated:** Into the Woods might not have done much this awards season, but Emily Blunt still deserves recognition for her standout work in the Sondheim musical.



Julianne Moore  
GETTY IMAGES

## Supporting actress

**Who should win:** Let's hear it for Keira Knightley, who took what could have been a rather dull, throwaway supporting role in *The Imitation Game* and quietly ran away with the film, outshining even co-star and fellow nominee Benedict Cumberbatch.

**Who should have been nominated:** Rene Russo stepped back into the spotlight in outstanding fashion as a cutthroat, desperate local news producer in *Nightcrawler*.



Keira Knightley and Benedict Cumberbatch CONTRIBUTED

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# All-white Oscar nominations lay bare lack of diversity

**The Academy Awards.** Ceremony spotlight draws attention to movie industry's failure to reflect a multicultural America

It was a year ago that Lupita Nyong'o, shortly before winning the Academy Award for best supporting actress in 12 Years a Slave, gave a speech about what she called "dark beauty."

Nyong'o, who so dazzled Hollywood and the Oscar-viewing public through awards season, spoke tenderly of receiving a letter from a girl who had been about to lighten her skin before Nyong'o's success, she said, "saved me." The letter struck Nyong'o because she recognized herself in that girl: "I remember a time when I too felt unbeautiful. I put on the TV and only saw pale skin."

The Mexican-born, Kenyan-raised actress was a central part last year to an Academy Awards flush with faces

uncommon to the Oscar podium.

What a difference a year makes.

This year's Oscars repeat a stubborn pattern that has plagued the Academy Awards throughout its history: Whenever change seems to come, a frustrating hangover follows. "Every 10 years, we have the same conversation," Spike Lee, a regular witness to the sporadic progress, has said.

Seldom have such fits and starts been starker than these Oscars, coming a year after a richly diverse Oscar crop. In Sunday's Academy Awards, all 20 acting nominees are white, a result that prompted some to declare that they would boycott this year's ceremony.

The lack of nominations for Selma director Ava DuVernay and star David Oyelowo were a particular flashpoint, viewed by many as unjust oversights not only because they merited honouring, but because their absences furthered an ignoble Oscar history.

Since becoming president of the academy, Cheryl Boone Isaacs has worked to divers-

## By the numbers

**0**

The number of this year's 20 acting nominees who are non-white.

**1**

The number of female best director winners.

**4**

the percentage of Hispanic roles in 500 top-grossing films in the U.S. in 2013.

**6**

The percentage of 6,000 plus Academy members who are non-white

**9.4**

The percentage of non-white nominees in the Academy's 87-year history.

Source: The Associated Press survey

ify the organization's ranks, though change comes slowly considering membership is for life.

But the academy is a reflection of the film industry; it can only reward the films that get made. What this year's all-white acting nominees did was lay bare the enormous, hulking iceberg of the movie business' diversity problems.

The UCLA diversity report released last year after eight years of research found underrepresentation of minorities and women throughout film and TV, from board rooms to talent agencies.

What's particularly galling for many of those working to change Hollywood is that minorities are among its most passionate customers.

Stacy L. Smith, founder and director of USC Annenberg's Media, Diversity and Social Change Initiative, calls the lack of progress in the industry "egregious."

"Hollywood does not think diversity is commercial," Smith said. "The numbers speak loudly and clearly about who is valued and who isn't." **THE ASSOCIATED PRESS**



Lupita Nyong'o accepts the award for best actress in a supporting role for 12 Years a Slave during the 2014 Oscars. JOHN SHEARER/INVISION/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS FILE

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# A tale of small-town sports success

**Biopic.** Running coach who was the inspiration behind McFarland film remains humble despite Hollywood treatment

Jim and Cheryl White have seen the movie *McFarland* three times and teared up at every viewing, even though, as he says, "We knew what was going to happen."

The film, which stars Kevin Costner as the most successful Californian high school cross-country coach in history, is the story of White, his wife and their life and work in McFarland, Calif., an impoverished town transformed by sports.

The Texas native taught in McFarland for 40 years, establishing a cross-country running team that would win nine state championships and give the runners a glimpse of life outside their small town and nearby fields where many of them worked as migrant "pickers."

His success may have earned him a Hollywood biopic and a more permanent tribute in the form of a dedicated gazebo in the town square, but he sees his influence in more metaphysical terms. "To me, my legacy is in the hearts and minds of these boys I've taught," he says.

In person, White is a humble man who quietly commands respect. At a post-screening Q&A I hosted with him in Toronto, he earned a standing ovation before even saying a word. As the audience clapped he was genuinely moved, and with a quivering voice whispered to me to "take over for a second."

Earlier in the day, we discussed seeing his life played out on the big screen. "We just hoped they could portray



Carlos Pratts, left, and Kevin Costner appear in a scene from *McFarland*. RON PHILLIPS/DISNEY

## In Focus

### RICHARD CROUSE



our true feelings of love for the town, for the community. That came across real well. We also felt like they portrayed the true hardships these boys went through."

Hollywood did make some changes to White's story and one scene in particular irked him. When we first see White in the film, he's hurling a cleated shoe at the lippy captain of his Idaho school football team, opening the kid's cheek.

"That is dramatic licence," he says. "It bothered me for a while but I talked to Kevin Costner about it.

I said, 'Kevin, can you give me your true feelings about the situation that happened in Idaho?' He said, 'I think, Jim, you're going to come across as the hero and not the villain because you're standing up for what's right.' I said, 'All right,' and I was satisfied with that."

White often uses the phrase "Well, that's Hollywood for you," when describing the making of the film and liberties taken with his life's story. But now the movie is finished, he says, "What was really fascinating to both of us was watching the screen and seeing them say, 'Mr. White would you come in here,' (or) 'Jim White this, and Cheryl White that.' We're sitting there looking at ourselves up there. It was kind of funny."

## In Review

### Hot Tub Time Machine 2

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### McFarland

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### The DUFF

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### Wrecking Crew

• • • • •

## Lifetime achievement

### Cardinal to receive award combining acting and activism



Tantoo Cardinal NADIA KWANDIBENS

As Métis actress Tantoo Cardinal prepares to receive a lifetime achievement award, she remembers what originally inspired her to begin acting more than 40 years ago: anger.

"It wasn't about a career at all — it was about having a voice," the Edmonton-raised 64-year-old said in a telephone interview this week. "I don't know if people really can appreciate what that experience is — of attempted genocide, generations and generations where your language is outlawed, your creativity is outlawed, anything you think or say or do is actually outlawed."

"There was a fire inside," she continued. "I had a huge rage inside about the way my people were perceived and the injustice of that. I have to cling to conviction, because that's my gun, you know?"

On Friday, Cardinal will receive ACTRA Toronto's Award of Excellence, a career-spanning honour previously presented to Rick Mercer, Fiona Reid and Shirley Douglas.

The award simultaneously recognizes a body of work and commitment to advocacy, and for Cardinal there was rarely much of a distinction between the two. **THE CANADIAN PRESS**



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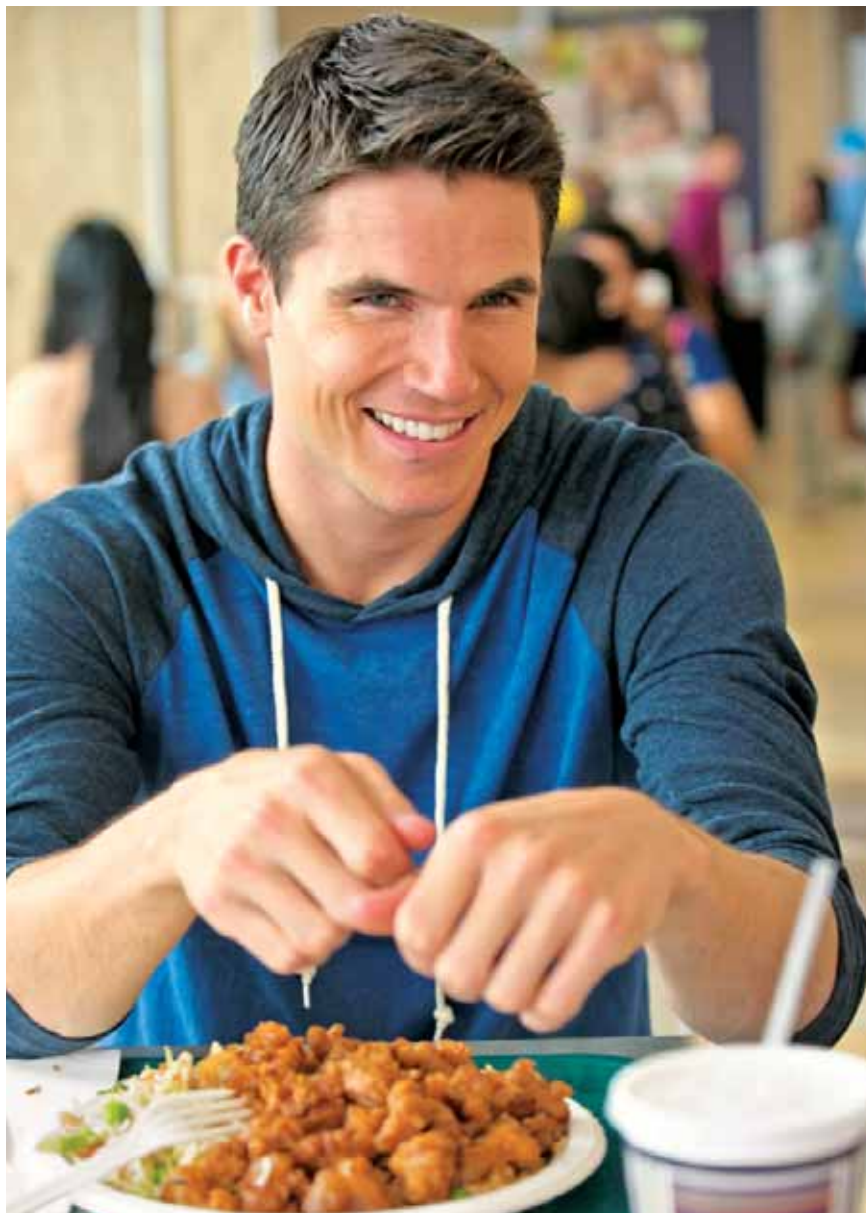
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High-school wise guy: Canadian actor Robbie Amell appears in a scene from *The DUFF*. GRANVILLE PICTURES

# Amell relied on his wits to nab role in *The DUFF*

**Casting.** Flash star aced dreaded 'chemistry read' by dropping improv lines on prospective co-star



**RICHARD CROUSE**  
scene@metronews.ca

Canadian actor Robbie Amell's latest starring role was all about chemistry. To make sure he had the kind of spark needed to play opposite potential *The DUFF* co-star Mae Whitman, he not only had to audition, he then had to try out again at a "chemistry read."

"They narrowed it down to a few guys," says the youthful looking 27-year-old. "They had signed Mae and they brought us in one after the other. Before I went in, my best friend Nick, who's very funny, and I sat down and figured out some alternate lines. I thought I'd have a shot at this if I could make her laugh."

Preparation aside, he says for Whitman, fresh off a stint on *Parenthood*, it wasn't love at first sight.

"Mae didn't want to drive in for the chemistry read," he says. "She was already sour and she said she was not excited. I walk in and she said, 'Screw this guy.' But I dropped some really rude improv line on her and she totally busted out laughing. I think that was the turning point."

Then it was a waiting game.

"My chemistry read was at 11 on a Friday morning," he says, "which means there is nothing else I am thinking about for the next couple of days. It slowly started to disappear and it got to a point where I thought, 'If I'm the guy, great. If I'm not the guy, I'm not. I just want to know.'"

Two weeks later he had the part of Wes, the best-looking guy in Bianca's (Whitman) school, who informs her that she is a *DUFF*, the Designated Ugly Fat Friend. He tells her she is the gatekeeper; the approachable one boys befriend to get closer to her prettier friends.

The all-important high school social hierarchy is the backbone of the story. Bianca and Wes are at opposite ends of the ecosystem, but Amell explains, "the movie is about knocking down these labels, embracing what makes you, you."

Amell, who in real life graduated from Toronto's Lawrence Park Collegiate Institute in 2006, says his school experience was very different than the one depicted in the movie.

"I didn't have great skin in high school so that was kind of my *DUFF* moment, but I always joke around that I grew up in Canada and everyone is polite so no one would call anyone the *DUFF*."

"I went to high school not that long ago but not every kid had a camera in their hand. Now everything is so documented you can't get away

## Social media

### Yes, Robbie handles his own tweets

Some things are sacred for *The Flash* star Robbie Amell. Like his tweets.

The Toronto-bred actor, who plays Firestorm on the CTV series *The Flash* and co-stars in the upcoming film *The DUFF*, says he got into a Twitter fight earlier this week over the veracity of his feed.

"Somebody called me out, they were like, 'Oh, man, somebody's running Robbie's Twitter page, this is totally a tweet from some company,'" Amell says during a recent visit to Toronto to promote his big-screen comedy.

"And I hit back immediately. I was like, 'I never do that.' Every single tweet, Instagram and Facebook post comes directly from me unless my account's been hacked."

THE CANADIAN PRESS

with anything. It sucks. I don't know if I could be an actor if there were camera phones when I went to high school. Everybody makes mistakes and you should be allowed to make a few without them being documented in HD."

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Matt Shepard and documentary maker Michele Josue, centre right, are pictured in a childhood photo. COURTESY MICHELE JOSUE

# Giving Matthew Shepard a chance to tell his story

**Documentary.** Film about murdered gay student reveals person behind the headlines

Dennis and Judy Shepard still receive emails and letters from all over the world, more than 15 years after their son Matthew's violent murder in a Wyoming field.

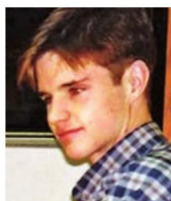
"I want to be perfect just like Matt," the notes from gay youth often read.

But the parents insist their son wasn't perfect — he was a normal 21-year-old who stumbled and made mistakes. And they hope a new documentary, Matt Shepard is a Friend of Mine, sheds light on Matthew the person, not Matthew the martyr.

"He was really just like everybody else," Judy said in a recent interview. "I think it's really important for young people in today's world to understand that you can have setbacks in life, but the important thing is to keep trying."

The documentary opens in select cities across Canada starting Friday. Director Michele Josue, a childhood friend of Matthew's, said she hoped to reveal the person behind the headlines — by travelling to pivotal locations in his life, interviewing friends and family, and even reading aloud his journals, poems and unsent letters.

## Quoted



"You really get a chance to hear his voice, to hear him narrate about his own life for the first time. Because Matt didn't have a voice for so many years. So we're able to give it back to him just a little bit."

Documentary maker Michele Josue

"You really get a chance to hear his voice, to hear him narrate about his own life for the first time," Josue said. "Because Matt didn't have a voice for so many years. So we're able to give it back to him just a little bit."

On Oct. 6, 1998, two men lured Shepard, a gay freshman at the University of Wyoming, from a bar and drove him to a field, where he was tortured and left to die. He succumbed to his severe injuries six days later.

The murder made global headlines and became a rallying cry for the gay rights movement. His story has been adapted into a play, The Laramie Project, and he was the namesake for a landmark U.S. hate crimes prevention bill signed in 2009.

Judy said that while the media attention heaped upon her family was difficult at the time, they hoped Matthew's story would reach other parents of gay children.

"What we really wanted to happen was for parents to stop rejecting their children,"

she said. "And we thought if they could hear our story, and how we've lost a child not by choice, why would anybody by choice give their children up?"

She said they made a commitment to fight for equal rights on their son's behalf. Judy and Dennis created an advocacy and outreach organization, the Matthew Shepard Foundation, and they continue to travel the world telling his story.

Dennis added they are uncomfortable with the idea of closure.

"How can there ever be true closure?" he asked. "When do you ever say goodbye? Because you still have the memory. You still have the hole in your heart. You still have the games for four that you can't play because you only have three in the family. You don't get the birthday cards, the Father's Day cards, the Mother's Day cards."

"It's never over," said Judy. "It just gets different, not better." **THE CANADIAN PRESS**

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Ratings and synopses courtesy of Rotten Tomatoes. For more movie reviews, trailers and news go to RottenTomatoes.com.

Ratings: **Certified Fresh:** 🍅 **Fresh:** 🍅 **Rotten:** 🍅 **Audience response:** 🍅 **Audience anticipation for the film:** +

Drama	Comedy	Romance	Comedy	Drama	Drama/Comedy
 <p><b>McFarland</b> Director. Niki Caro</p> <p>Stars. Kevin Costner, Carlos Pratt</p> <p>From Disney comes McFarland, the true against-all-odds story of the 1987 McFarland high school cross-country team in an economically challenged community.</p> <p>Rotten Tomatoes™ score Critics: 🍅 67% Audience: + 87%</p>	 <p><b>The DUFF</b> Director. Ari Sandel</p> <p>Stars. Mae Whitman, Robbie Amell</p> <p>Bianca is a high school senior whose world is shattered when she learns the student body knows her as 'The DUFF' (Designated Ugly Fat Friend) to her prettier, more popular friends. Now, despite the words of caution from her favourite teacher, she puts aside the potential distraction of her crush and enlists Wesley, a slick but charming jock, to help reinvent herself.</p> <p>Rotten Tomatoes™ score Critics: 🍅 88% Audience: + 91%</p>	 <p><b>Fifty Shades of Grey</b> Director. Sam Taylor-Johnson</p> <p>Stars. Jamie Dornan, Dakota Johnson</p> <p>E.L. James' kinky bestseller gets the big-screen treatment with this Universal Pictures/Focus Features co-production. The steamy tale details a masochistic relationship between a college student and a businessman, whose desires for extreme intimacy stem from secrets in his past.</p> <p>Rotten Tomatoes™ score Critics: 🍃 25% Audience: 🍷 50%</p>	 <p><b>Hot Tub Time Machine 2</b> Director. Steve Pink</p> <p>Stars. Craig Robinson, Rob Corddry</p> <p>Hot Tub Time Machine director Steve Pink returns to the helm for this sequel set 10 years in the future, and starring Rob Corddry, Adam Scott, Clark Duke, and Craig Robinson.</p> <p>Rotten Tomatoes™ score Critics: No reviews yet Audience: + 92%</p>	 <p><b>Leviathan</b> Director. Andrey Zvyagintsev</p> <p>Stars. Elena Lyadova, Alexei Serebriakov</p> <p>The latest drama from Andrey Zvyagintsev, the acclaimed director of The Return. Kolya (Alexei Serebriakov) lives in a small fishing town near the stunning Barents Sea in Northern Russia. He owns an auto-repair shop that stands right next to the house where he lives with his young wife Lilya (Elena Lyadova) and his son Roma (Serguei Pokhodaev).</p> <p>Rotten Tomatoes™ score Critics: 🍅 99% Audience: 🍷 83%</p>	 <p><b>What We Do In The Shadows</b> Director. Taika Waititi, Jemaine Clement</p> <p>Stars. Taika Waititi, Jemaine Clement</p> <p>What We Do In The Shadows chronicles the adventures of four vampire roommates trying to get by in a modern world that's not always hospitable to the undead. Clement and Waititi, creators of HBO's Flight of the Conchords, co-wrote, co-directed, and co-star in this hilarious send-up.</p> <p>Rotten Tomatoes™ score Critics: 🍅 92% Audience: + 91%</p>

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# Adam Scott slips into Hot Tub Time Machine

**Movies.** Stepping into comedy sequel was like going to summer camp with friends, says the Parks and Rec actor

**MATT PRIGGE**  
Metro in New York City

Adam Scott wasn't always a comedic actor. He went to drama school, had stints on Party of Five and Six Feet Under, did a sex-heavy relationship drama at HBO (Tell Me You Love Me) and has been in action (Torque), drama (High Crimes) and a Martin Scorsese movie (The Aviator). But after his turn as Will Ferrell's douchebag corporate shark brother in Step Brothers, he was suddenly part of the comedy fold, appearing in the brilliant but cancelled Party Down and the just-wrapped Parks and Recreation. With Hot Tub Time Machine 2, Scott pops up in another ongoing series, playing the son of John Cusack (who is AWOL) from the far-off future of 2024.

**You're no stranger to joining things that are already midstream. Was joining the Hot Tub Time Machine franchise in its first sequel any different?**

I already knew Rob (Corddry), Craig (Robinson) and Clark (Duke), so it was easy. I think I said yes before they even wrote it. Steve (Pink), the director, just pitched me a rough idea and I said sure. It was like going to summer camp in New Orleans with your friends. It didn't really feel like work. I feels like you're hanging out with your friends and someone happens to be filming it. I've been lucky to be in a bunch of TV shows and movies that are like that. I would love to hang around and make d— jokes with Rob, Craig and Clark whether it was being filmed or not. It's just a happy coincidence that we got a movie out of it.

**But it's not all play, though. You still have to make a movie.**

It is work. We are working 15-hour days. It is actual work, and we're tired at the

end of the day. It's not like it was a vacation. We all worked really hard to make a good movie. We weren't just trying to make ourselves laugh. We were always trying to find what makes the best scene. It was work, but getting to work with your friends is the best-case scenario. I'm lucky enough to have friends who are really talented and funny and

really great actors. It's just a bonus that you get to work with people you enjoy.

**Your character here is very earnest and childlike.**  
It's a fun exercise in every scene to find the most oblivious route to go. I think my character's just happy to have some friends. He's the kind of guy who annoys people with his curiosity

and his earnest view of the world. So he doesn't have a lot of male friends. He's not able to tell he's annoying the s— out of them.

This isn't hard sci-fi, but it is a film about a future in which not a ton has changed.

Part of that was it wasn't like we had \$80 million to make a new future. They were smart to only go 10

years, where things have changed slightly but we're essentially the same. There's a couple of minimal ways things have changed. I feel like entertainment has definitely been degraded to the point of people just watching other people suffer on television. Generally people in the film are stupider, which I think we can probably count on.



Adam Scott with Gillian Jacobs in Hot Tub Time Machine 2. CONTRIBUTED

## Adam Scott on the new golden age of television and reality TV

Where do you guess TV may go in 10 years, especially considering that right now we're living in, as many commentators have crowed, a new golden age in television?

- I'm optimistic, and I think quality always rises. I don't think good movies and television will ever stop. Reality TV is permanent, though, and I think it's going to keep getting crazier and crazier. I dread that, but I also look forward to it. I think there's a part of all of us that enjoys that stuff.

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# Adrian Martinez proud of being 'sidekick to the stars'



Adrian Martinez's latest film is *Focus*, in which he plays an associate of a scam artist played by Will Smith. CONTRIBUTED.

**Interview.** Actor has starred alongside heavyweights such as Will Smith and Ben Stiller

**RICHARD CROUSE**  
scene@metronews.ca

Adrian Martinez is "that guy."

You recognize his face but probably don't know his name.

He's the actor you've seen in everything from *American Hustle* and *The Amazing Spider-Man* to this weekend's *Focus*, standing just to the side of the main actors. He's the sidekick to the stars, a moniker he wears proudly.

"Sidekick to the stars?" he says. "That's absolutely cool with me. I'm working and it's the best film school in the world."

From Ben Stiller, his "teacher" and *Secret Life of Walter Mitty* co-star, he says he learned "how to compartmentalize your energy. Nobody works harder than Ben Stiller. He was acting all day, directing and then editing."

## Quoted

**"Will Ferrell is surprisingly not funny on set except during the takes, when he's hysterical."**

Adrian Martinez  
on working with Ferrell in *Casa De Mi Padre*

"Will Ferrell," he says, "is surprisingly not funny on set except during the takes, when he's hysterical. I took discipline away from him."

In *Focus*, Martinez plays Farhad, a computer expert and associate of scam artist Nicky Spurgeon, played by Will Smith.

It's a small but important role, which gave Martinez the chance to watch Smith in action as they shot the film in New Orleans and Buenos Aires.

"From Will Smith I learned gratitude," he says. "This is a guy who's been doing this a long while and every day on set he was absolutely invested in the well-being of everyone."

"He would gauge the temperature of the room and if he felt people were dragging he would just start dancing —

literally get jiggy with it. I felt, wow, this guy doesn't have to do anything and he's doing everything to lead the pack into the right place."

He puts those lessons to work in a variety of gigs from comedy to drama, from big screen to small.

"I do television and commercials," he says. "I don't care. I just work. The way I've always seen it is that commercials are the haiku of acting, TV is like the short stories and movies are the novels. Whatever format you use as an actor, you're still a character, whether it is six seconds or an hour and a half."

Finding a way to balance his professional and personal lives was a lesson he learned from a source off set.

"I have a nine-year-old daughter and she keeps it in perspective for me," he says.

"The other day we were talking and I said, 'Isn't this great? I'm in Los Angeles but we can FaceTime and see each other.'"

She said, very cogently, 'You can't hug in a FaceTime, daddy.' She doesn't fool around. She brings it right home."

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ggy Azalea ALL PHOTOS: GETTY IMAGES

## Iggy leaves trolls behind

Congratulations, Internet. You scared off Iggy Azalea. The Australian rapper returned from a little post-Grammys vacation only to be utterly dismayed by the social media reactions to some photos of her on the beach. So dismayed, in fact, that she went on an epic Twitter tirade culminating in her announcing she's taking her Twitter ball and going home because you're all jerks.

"Just got back from a great vacation, came online and saw apparently it's shocking and unheard of to be a woman and have cellulite," she wrote. "I feel the hatred and pettiness I see online at all times is making me become an angry person and I cannot be that. To become nasty because of the way I feel I am treated would be a disservice to my fans and I promise I will try to keep smiling. But I also

want to let my fans know I am taking some time away from social media. I need to be happy and it is too negative and draining. My management will tweet/run my accounts from today onwards."

Not quite done, she popped back in a few minutes later to add the rather poetic, "The Internet is the ugliest reflection of mankind there is."

Dang, Iggy.

## Allison trusts her dad Brian Williams, so there

Actress Allison Williams is defending her dad, suspended NBC anchor Brian Williams, as a good man who cares deeply about integrity in journalism.

The Girls actress was asked by Seth Meyers how her family has been holding up since her father's career was put in jeopardy by questions about how truthful he is telling stories about his job and life.

"One thing this experience has not done is shake my trust and belief in him as a man," said Williams, who appeared with Meyers at the 92nd St. YMCA in New York. "He's a

really good man, he's an honest man, he's a truthful man. He has so much integrity and cares so much about journalism."

NBC suspended Brian Williams for six months for telling a false story about being on a helicopter hit by an enemy grenade during the war in Iraq, and is looking into other claims he has made during interviews and appearances.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Allison Williams




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Ricardo is a Canadian chef, television host and author on a mission: To unite people through the pleasure of food. Discover his delicious and simple recipes every Friday — just in time for the weekend

# Bite into Academy Award luxury



This recipe makes approximately 24 appetizers. COURTESY RICARDOCUISINE.COM

**Appetizers.** Escargot and Garlic Stuffed Tomato Tarts are perfect for your glam party



**RICARDO COOKS**  
Chef Ricardo  
Ricardo Magazine

Hosting an Academy Awards screening party? Save the chips and dip for a less grandiose event. This super-chic soiree needs a healthy dose of luxe! Think escargot and, of course, plenty of bubbly.

When making these appetizers, make sure you prick the dough thoroughly, because the tomatoes can easily fall on the side while baking.

Simply place them back when arranging them on a serving platter.

1. With the rack in the middle position, preheat the oven to 400 F (200 C). Line a baking sheet with parchment paper.

2. On a lightly floured surface,

roll out the dough to about 1/8 inch (3 mm) thick. With a 1 3/4-inch (4.5 cm) round cookie cutter, make enough circles to match your quantity of snails. With a fork, prick the centre of the dough several times. Place on the baking sheet and refrigerate.

3. Cut off the tomato caps, then cut off a thin slice at the base so they stand in place. Remove the flesh with a small melon baller. Set aside.

4. In a skillet, melt the butter with the garlic. Add the snails and cook for about 1 minute while stirring. Add the chives. Season with pepper. Stuff each tomato with a snail. Set aside.

5. In a bowl, combine the sour cream and mustard. Brush over each circle of dough. Top with the stuffed tomatoes. Drizzle with the remaining garlic butter. Bake until golden brown, about 20 minutes. Season with salt and pepper. Serve warm as an hors d'oeuvre.

**FOLLOW RICARDO ON SOCIAL MEDIA AND ON RICARDOCUISINE.COM OR SUBSCRIBE TO HIS MAGAZINE'S ENGLISH EDITION, WHICH LAUNCHED IN 2014.**

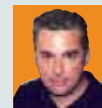
## Ingredients

- 1/2 lb (225 g) thawed and cold puff pastry
- 24 cherry tomatoes
- 1/4 cup (57 g) butter
- 2 cloves garlic, finely chopped
- 1 can (200 g) snails, rinsed and

- drained (about 24 snails)
- 1 tbsp chopped fresh chives or thyme leaves
- Salt and pepper
- 2 tbsp (30 ml) sour cream
- 1 1/2 tsp (7.5 ml) Dijon mustard

## Liquid Assets

### Tomato-wine challenge



**LIQUID ASSETS**  
Peter Rockwell  
@therealwineguy  
liquidassets@eastlink.ca

Though it may be one of the most popular fruits in the world (and yes, technically it is a fruit) the affable tomato can be, in a word, challenging when it comes to a wine match.

When I first read Chef Ricardo's recipe for escargot and garlic stuffed tomato tarts, I couldn't help but feel a bit like Indiana Jones when he realized the temple was full of snakes in Raiders of the Lost Ark.

To paraphrase: Tomatoes. Why did it have to be tomatoes?

Not that they're impossible to partner with wine. It's just that their forward acidity and ripe, fruity juiciness can be an off-putting counterpoint to the vivacious personalities of many wines.

A foodie friend of mine adores a Sauvignon Blanc-based white with tomatoes. I lean towards an acid-forward red like an Italian Sangiovese.



While Italy's Chianti region in Tuscany is considered Sangiovese's true home, Farnese's 2013 Fantini Sangiovese IGT (\$7.95 to \$10.49), made in Abruzzo, is as soft on the palate as it is on the pocketbook.

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# AMSTERDAM IN 24 HOURS



SHUTTERSTOCK IMAGES

## Dutch treats for everyone to enjoy

### *Amsterdam is an architectural wonder*



Most people associate Amsterdam with Van Gogh, canals and coffeehouses. But the Dutch capital is an architectural wonder with much more on tap than the typical tourist spots. Often referred to as the Venice of the North, Amsterdam is connected by 1,281 bridges on 165 waterways. It's easy to get around, yet this urban village offers one of Europe's largest historical centres, with architecture dating back to Holland's Golden Age in the 17th century — and lots of winding streets to explore:

#### WHAT TO DO

The Dutch gave us Rembrandt, Vermeer and Van Gogh, so most tourists head to the Rijksmuseum, Van Gogh Museum or Anne Frank House. But Amsterdam is home to more than 50 museums, many of which are far less crowded than those in the Museum Quarter. Learn about Holland's role in the Second World War at the Jewish Historical Museum

or discover why the Dutch are obsessed with tulips at the Tulip Museum. Photo buffs can take in rotating exhibits at the Foam Photography Museum, then pause at the café for a slice of huisgemaakte taarten (homemade cake).

The 800-year-old Oude Kerk (Old Church) is Amsterdam's oldest building, founded in 1213, which now serves as a concert hall and exhibition space. It hosts a busy concert schedule year-round underneath the largest medieval wooden vault (with some of the best acoustics) in Europe. The floor consists entirely of gravestones.

Avoid tacky souvenir stalls and hit De Negen Straatjes (Nine Streets) in the Central Canal Belt, a water-woven district of boutiques, cafés and restaurants. Wander the cobbled lanes for some of the city's best vintage finds alongside Europe's trendiest labels, such as Pina and Van Ravenstein. At night, avoid the rowdy bars of Leidseplein and Rembrandtplein and opt for a drink at one of the local haunts in Nine Streets, such as The Bar With No Name.

The 100-year-old Albert Cuyp open-air street market is a must for shoppers, with more than 300 vendors selling everything from cheese and chocolate to jewelry, clothing and bike accessories. Book lovers should check out the Spui Book Market (some English titles are available), and art lovers might find a one-of-a-kind memento at the Spui Art Market.

#### WHERE TO EAT

While other European capitals — such as Paris and Rome — are known for their culinary delights, Dutch fare tends to fall under the radar. But the Netherlands has its own culinary traditions, consisting mainly of hearty comfort food. Head to an eetcafé (similar to a French bistro) for lunch and a cup of Dutch coffee, or order a pint at a brown café, which specializes in beers and pub-style fare.

Go Dutch and try Hap-Hmm, an eetcafé near Vondelpark — Amsterdam's largest park, located in the Museum Quarter — and try the beef escalope. The Pantry serves up everyday fare from erwtensoep (split pea soup) to stamppotten (potatoes mashed with vegetables), as well as Indonesian satay.

The country's colonial past has resulted in an abundance of Indonesian restaurants — try the rijsttafel, a Dutch invention that combines various dishes from Indonesia. For those with a sweet tooth, Dutch bakeries

offer classic pastries that typically include baked apples and berries.

Hipsters can head to Pilek on the banks of the IJ for organic food with plenty of vegetarian and raw options. This post-industrial space, with walls made of old shipping containers, is located on a man-made beach and offers everything from live music to yoga and massages — and lovely views across the canal. It's a 15-minute ferry ride to get there.

After hours, sample traditional Dutch liqueurs at a 17th-century tasting house, Wynand Fockink, which has been in business since 1679. Or head to Brouwerij 't IJ, a craft brewery located in a former bathhouse beside a Dutch windmill, where you can sip a pils or dubbel on the patio with a largely local crowd.

May to September is a great time to visit Amsterdam and explore its historical charms. Start planning your Dutch getaway today — you will be sure to discover your own hidden gems. 🍷







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NHL

## Islanders stop Preds' winning streak at 6 games

Nick Leddy had a goal and two assists, Jaroslav Halak tied the team record for wins in a season, and the New York Islanders cooled off the NHL-leading Nashville Predators with a 5-2 win on Thursday night.

Brian Strait, John Tavares and Johnny Boychuk scored in the first for the Islanders, who snapped Nashville's six-game winning streak with their sixth victory in seven games. Tavares has at least one goal in each of his last four games.

Leddy and Josh Bailey scored 1:39 apart in the third to break open a one-goal nail biter. Halak made 30 saves for his 32nd win for the Islanders, who started the night one point off the Eastern Conference lead. **THE ASSOCIATED PRESS**

## Canucks get the best of Rangers in a shootout

Alexandre Burrows and Radim Vrbata scored in a shootout and the Vancouver Canucks rallied three times to post a 5-4 victory over the Rangers on Thursday night, ending New York's four-game winning streak.

Henrik Sedin scored twice for the Canucks, including a tying goal with 2:00 left in regulation after Vancouver pulled goaltender Ryan Miller early.

Miller finished with 30 saves. Shawn Matthias and Bo Horvat also tallied as Vancouver snapped a five-game losing streak against the Rangers dating to January 2011. **THE ASSOCIATED PRESS**

# 'I'm going to be a much better fighter'

**UFC.** MacDonald learns from his two losses, ready to show his true self in title match

Rory MacDonald has lost just twice in 10 years and learned from both setbacks.

In 2010 in Vancouver, he let the emotion of the crowd and fighting in his home province get to him in his second UFC outing. Veteran Carlos (The Natural Born Killer) Condit rallied to put MacDonald away with just seven seconds remaining at UFC 115.

Against (Ruthless) Robbie Lawler at UFC 167 in Las Vegas in 2013, a lacklustre training camp was followed by an uneven performance that was not helped by a third-round poke in the eye. MacDonald had his moments but not enough of them and lost a split decision.

Now MacDonald (18-2) is getting a second crack at Lawler, this time for the welterweight championship. The 25-year-old Montreal-based fighter has been matched against Lawler (25-10 with one no contest) in the co-main event of UFC 189 on July 11 in Las Vegas.

"I'm going to be a much better fighter for this one," MacDonald said in an interview Thursday, one day after the fight announcement.

His first meeting with Lawler, however painful, proved to be worthwhile.

"I'm grateful (for) the experience I had that night with



Rory MacDonald last fought Tarec Saffiedine in October. MacDonald won via a third-round TKO.

ANDREW VAUGHAN/THE CANADIAN PRESS

Robbie," MacDonald said.

"It really was a kick in the ass and a blessing in disguise. I was upset about it but I can't explain how much that motivated me to get myself back into where I need to be. I wasn't at my best for that fight and it was my fault."

After the Condit loss, MacDonald learned not to bring emotion into the cage with him. His normal pre-fight

### Three wins in a row

MacDonald has posted impressive wins over Demian Maia, Tyron Woodley and Tarec Saffiedine since losing to Lawler in November 2013.

demeanour is so cool that the ringside doctor might be tempted to feel for a pulse.

But against Lawler, he could not wait for training camp and fight night to be over "so I could go relax and just get away from martial arts for a bit."

In the wake of the loss, he adopted a new attitude.

"Just having fun with martial arts and getting back to that passion and enjoying my life in martial arts," he said. "That's all." **THE CANADIAN PRESS**

# 4 SPORTS



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# Top skips Jones, Sweeting to meet twice on Friday

**Scotties.** With doubleheader ahead, final day of round robin promises lots of drama

Manitoba's Jennifer Jones strengthened her grip on second place at the Scotties Tournament of Hearts on Thursday with a 10-3 rout of Prince Edward Island's Suzanne Birt and a 6-3 win over Northern Ontario's Tracy Horgan.

Jones improved to 9-1 and trailed only Val Sweeting of Alberta in the round-robin standings.

Sweeting scored two in the last end for a dramatic 7-6 victory over Canada's Rachel Homan in the afternoon draw before a stunning 9-1 loss to Saskatchewan's Stefanie Lawton in the evening draw in Moose Jaw, Sask.

But the afternoon victory in the rematch of last year's Scotties final gives Sweeting a



Val Sweeting was celebrating after topping Team Canada's Rachel Homan on Thursday afternoon in Moose Jaw, Sask. Sweeting faces Jennifer Jones Friday night in the Page Playoff for the right to go straight through to Sunday's final.  
JONATHAN HAYWARD/THE CANADIAN PRESS

birth in the one-two Page Playoff game Friday night against Jones.

"We just have to stay strong now," Sweeting said. "Momen-

tum is good going into the playoffs. We just want to finish strong and hopefully just come out on top."

Sweeting and Jones will play

twice on Friday. They'll meet in the round-robin finale in the morning, with the winner to earn the first seed.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

## NBA

### OKC's Westbrook up to old tricks as play resumes

Russell Westbrook had 34 points and 10 assists to help the Thunder defeat the Dallas Mavericks 104-89 on Thursday night in Oklahoma City.

Serge Ibaka had 21 points and a career-high 22 rebounds and reserve guard Anthony Morrow added 16 points for the Thunder, who won for the sixth time in seven games. They moved into a tie with Phoenix for eighth place in the Western Conference.

The Thunder rolled, despite getting just 12 points from Kevin Durant.

Dirk Nowitzki had 14 points and Tyson Chandler added 10 points and 13 rebounds for the Mavericks, who shot a season-low 36.3 per cent from the field.

Dallas point guard Rajon Rondo returned after missing six games with broken bones in his face. He finished with five points and six assists in 30 minutes. **THE ASSOCIATED PRESS**

## Faces changing places

A flurry of trades were made before the 3 p.m. EST deadline Thursday. The following are just some of the reported players that were dealt.

- Goran Dragic and Isaiah Thomas, were among five players traded by the Suns in a major overhaul at deadline.



Goran Dragic  
GETTY IMAGES

- Kevin Garnett also has a new address — his original NBA one. The Timberwolves brought him back to Minnesota by sending Thaddeus Young to Brooklyn.



Kevin Garnett  
GETTY IMAGES

- The Oklahoma City Thunder traded Reggie Jackson to the Detroit Pistons and acquired Enes Kanter from the Utah Jazz on Thursday. **THE ASSOCIATED PRESS**

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# Glenn returns to Regina at last

**CFL.** 'Darian (Durant) is the starter,' admits veteran quarterback, now a Roughrider

Kevin Glenn is coming home to finish his CFL career.

The veteran quarterback signed with the Saskatchewan Roughriders as a free agent Thursday. Glenn, 35, began his career with Saskatchewan in 2001 and spent three seasons with the club before being traded to the Winnipeg Blue Bombers.

"I want to write a book when I'm finished and this would be a great story to tell, coming full circle like this," Glenn told reporters. "When I left Saskatchewan it wasn't on my terms, I got traded so I never had any ill will towards Saskatchewan."

"I had a great time when I was here."

Glenn started 17 regular-season games last season



Kevin Glenn in B.C. Lions uniform  
GETTY IMAGES FILE

with the B.C. Lions. He completed 302 of 479 passes (63 per cent) and was the league's second-leading passer with 3,918 yards while adding 17 TD strikes.

Glenn will battle for backup duties in Saskatchewan, as incumbent Darian Durant — a friend of Glenn's — is firmly entrenched as the club's

starter. The Riders were 8-2 with Durant under centre last season, but lost six of their last eight regular-season games and the West Division semifinal after Durant suffered an elbow injury.

"We all know Darian is the starter," Glenn said. "My job is to come in and compete ... I'm not here to come in and cause any drama or anything."

"I'm here to make the team better. I think that's one reason that Darian has already accepted the fact that I've signed here ... he knows that's the type of person I am. I'm looking for something special this year, really really special."

Roughriders general manager Brendan Taman said Glenn has always been a team player.

"He has shown throughout his career he does what's best for the team," Taman said. "He knows what he's coming into and there's no hidden agendas."

THE CANADIAN PRESS

## NFL

### Elway hints at Manning's return to Denver

Asked who he thinks Denver's quarterback will be next season, John Elway left no doubt: Peyton Manning.

Asked about how Manning's contract might read if he does return, Elway was less clear: "The bottom line is, I don't like to get into anyone's contract."

Elway's deflection of the contract question

Thursday left open the possibility that negotiations over dollars could be holding up a final decision as Manning considers returning for a fourth season in Denver. Manning is scheduled to make \$19 million next season, and the Broncos could use some extra cap room as they prepare to shore up their offensive and defensive lines. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS



Peyton Manning  
GETTY IMAGES



### A photo-finish silver medal

Canada's Alex Harvey won the silver medal in the men's cross-country sprint Thursday at the Nordic skiing world championships in Falun, Sweden. Norway's Petter Northug stretched out his ski to beat Harvey and win gold in a photo finish. JONATHAN NACKSTRAND/AFP/GETTY IMAGES

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## AUGMENTED REALITY

**Stuck on 12 Across?**  
Scan this image with your Metro News app for today's crossword and Sudoku answers. It's OK. No one's watching.



## Horoscopes by Sally Brompton

### Aries

**March 21 - April 20**

As your ruler Mars moves into your sign today you will be in an assertive mood. Just be careful not to get too domineering for some people's tastes.

### Taurus

**April 21 - May 21**

If you can't get what you want over the next 24 hours you will get the chance to make up for it tomorrow. The only thing you have to fear is fear itself.

### Gemini

**May 22 - June 21**

You are so enthusiastic about something that you cannot understand why some people are being so negative about it. Maybe they have looked at the situation in a balanced way.

### Cancer

**June 22 - July 23**

You could easily lose patience with someone on the work front today, but hold back from saying anything too negative. They could make things tough for you later.

### Leo

**July 24 - Aug. 23**

You are in a helpful mood at the moment, but don't be too helpful. Do you want to end up doing so much for others that you have no time to do anything for yourself?

### Virgo

**Aug. 24 - Sept. 23**

A financial opportunity is worth pursuing but the planets warn it may not be as great as you've been led to believe. There will be a lot of work involved.

### Libra

**Sept. 24 - Oct. 23**

As Venus, planet of love, moves into the relationship area of your chart today it's likely you will meet someone who gets your pulse racing. Don't get carried away — yet.

### Scorpio

**Oct. 24 - Nov. 22**

Certain chores may be tiresome but there is no way you can get out of them so you might as well do the best possible job.

### Sagittarius

**Nov. 23 - Dec. 21**

Don't make any travel plans for today or tomorrow because there is something special coming your way and if you move you may miss it.

### Capricorn

**Dec. 22 - Jan. 20**

Mars in the domestic sector of your chart is likely to spark family squabbles but they are really not that important. Also, with Venus working in your favour you can calm things down. Be the voice of reason.

### Aquarius

**Jan. 21 - Feb. 19**

Social activities will be fun over the next few days but there will be challenges too. Someone you meet could rub you the wrong way over something trivial but it's really no big deal.

### Pisces

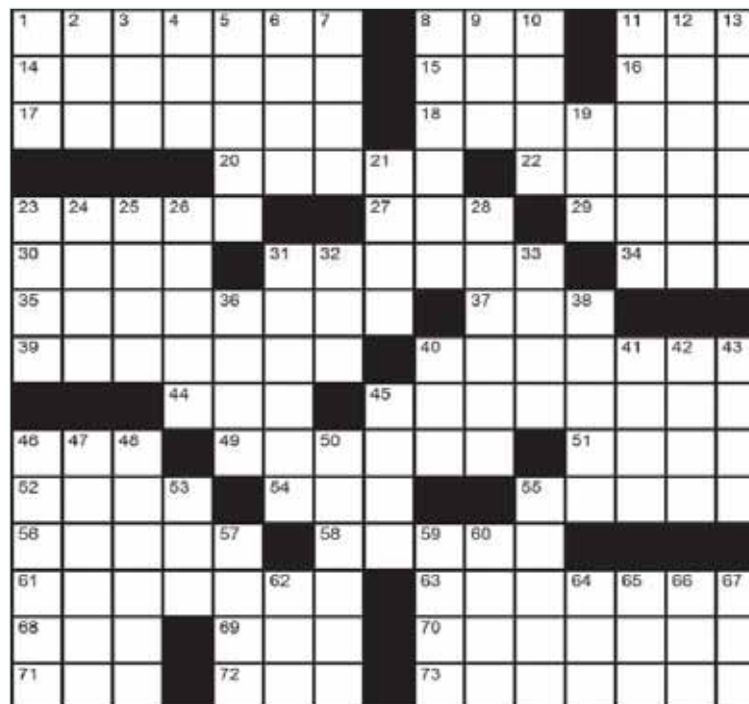
**Feb. 20 - March 20**

You may lose your cool about something that normally would not bother you. If you do, calm down and have the good grace to admit you went over the top.

## Crossword: Canada Across and Down by Kelly Ann Buchanan

### Across

1. Oscars 2015: Dean \_\_, Canadian director (with Bonnie Arnold) who is up for an Oscar for #50-Down at this weekend's ceremonies
8. \_\_ for the cameras
11. Drink delicately
14. Ferocious fire
15. Fit Fiddle link: 2 wds.
16. \_\_ 'easter
17. Conquers
18. TV Western on which #11-Down's director Clint Eastwood starred
20. Prefix to 'comedy'
22. Military caps
23. Domicile
27. Movie studio area
29. Quebec singer Mr. Simard
30. Uncommon
31. Health resort amenities
34. Soak flax
35. Keep from happening
37. New Zealand parrot
39. Take off with the cash
40. Super salty splashy spot: 2 wds.
44. "Won-der-ful!"
45. Oscars 2015: As per #1-Across and #70-Across... \_\_
- Feature Film
46. Inquire
49. 1971 Elton John



album: ' \_\_ Across the Water'

51. Ski \_\_
52. Red veggie
54. Three, in Italy
55. Exits-not
56. Country singer
- Mr. Jackson's
58. Mr. Agassi
61. Locale
63. Backslide

68. Rock producer Brian

69. Philosopher, \_\_-tzu
70. Oscars 2015: As the co-director of "The Boxtrolls" (2014), Canadian cartoonist Graham \_\_ is up for an Oscar in the category at

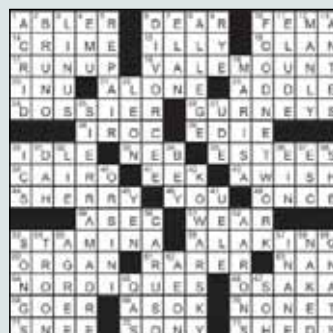
#45-Across

71. \_\_ Antonio
72. Barbie's boyfriend
73. Adieu!

### Down

1. Fared
2. Mariner's dir.
3. Texter's pal
4. Liberace's nickname
5. Pontificate
6. Book's foreword [abbr.]
7. Baseball's Sammy
8. Oscars 2015: Best Actress nominee Ms. Cotillard
9. Can. neighbour
10. Look bewilderedly
11. Oscars 2015: Best Picture nominee,

## Yesterday's Crossword



### Online

See today's answers at [metronews.ca/answers](http://metronews.ca/answers)



## Conceptis Sudoku by Dave Green

### How to play

Fill in the grid, so that every row, every column and every 3x3 box contains the digits 1-9. There is no math involved.

## Yesterday's Sudoku

5	8	7	1	2	4	6	3	9
3	4	1	6	7	9	8	5	2
6	9	2	8	5	3	7	4	1
1	6	3	4	8	2	9	7	5
4	7	5	3	9	6	1	2	8
9	2	8	7	1	5	4	6	3
2	5	4	9	6	1	3	8	7
7	1	6	5	3	8	2	9	4
8	3	9	2	4	7	5	1	6

9		7		1		6	2	
				9				3
1				2	6			8
						1	4	
4		2		8		3		7
	7	9						
6				8	5			9
5				2				
	3	8		6		2		4

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